Shojo Beat Manga

BABY & Me™

Story & Art by

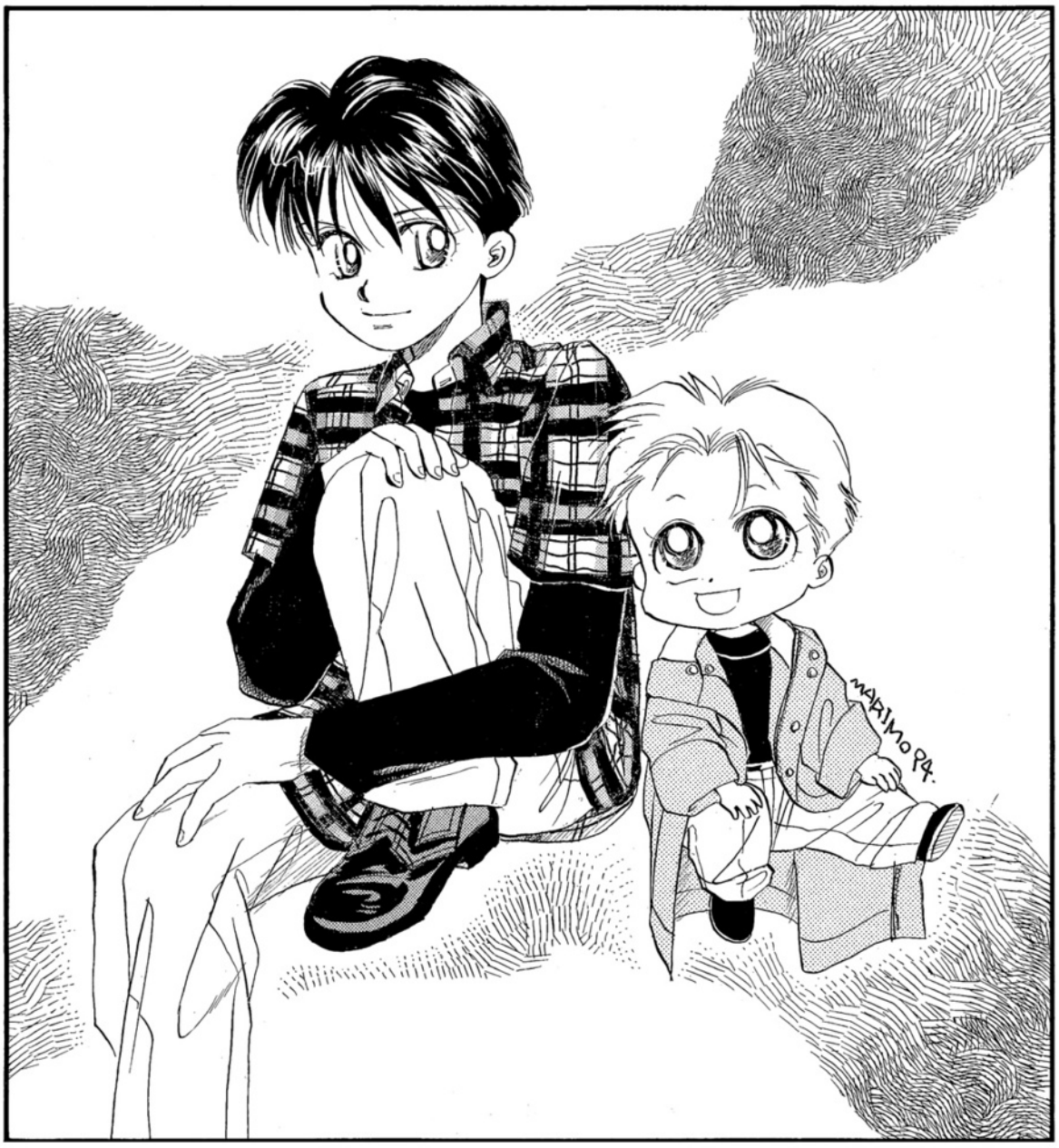
Marimo Ragawa

9

Shojo Beat

BABY & Me

Vol. 9



Story & Art by **Marimo Ragawa**

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BABY & Me

Chapter 45

It's not the right season, but they're in their bathing suits!!

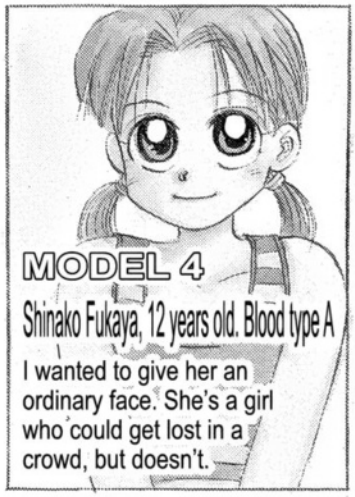
A bouquet of flowers for the female co-stars!!

MODEL 1

Huh?

Tomoko Kimura, 25 years old. Blood type O

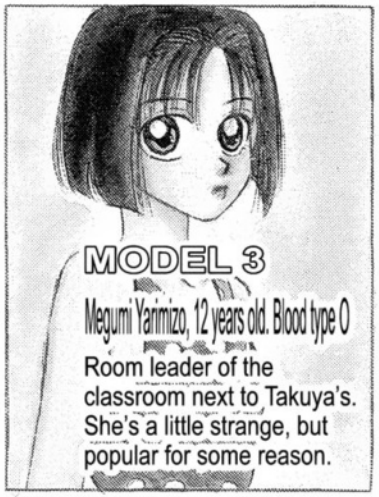
For some reason, Seiichi's wife is very popular with female readers. When she first appeared, she looked a little like Minako Tanaka, but for some reason she's gotten to be more like busty Fumie Hosokawa.



MODEL 4

Shinako Fukaya, 12 years old. Blood type A

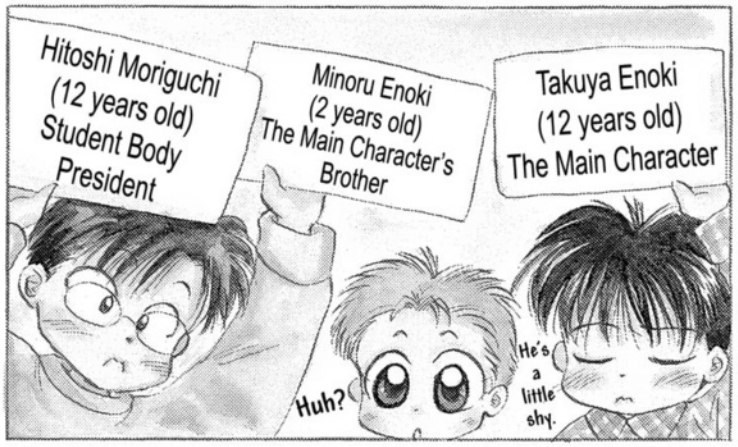
I wanted to give her an ordinary face. She's a girl who could get lost in a crowd, but doesn't.

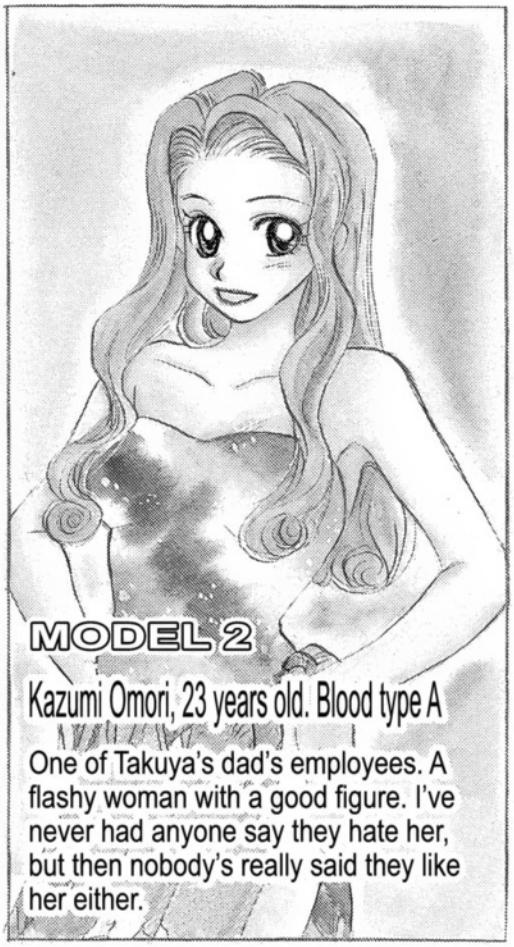


MODEL 3

Megumi Yarimizo, 12 years old. Blood type O

Room leader of the classroom next to Takuya's. She's a little strange, but popular for some reason.





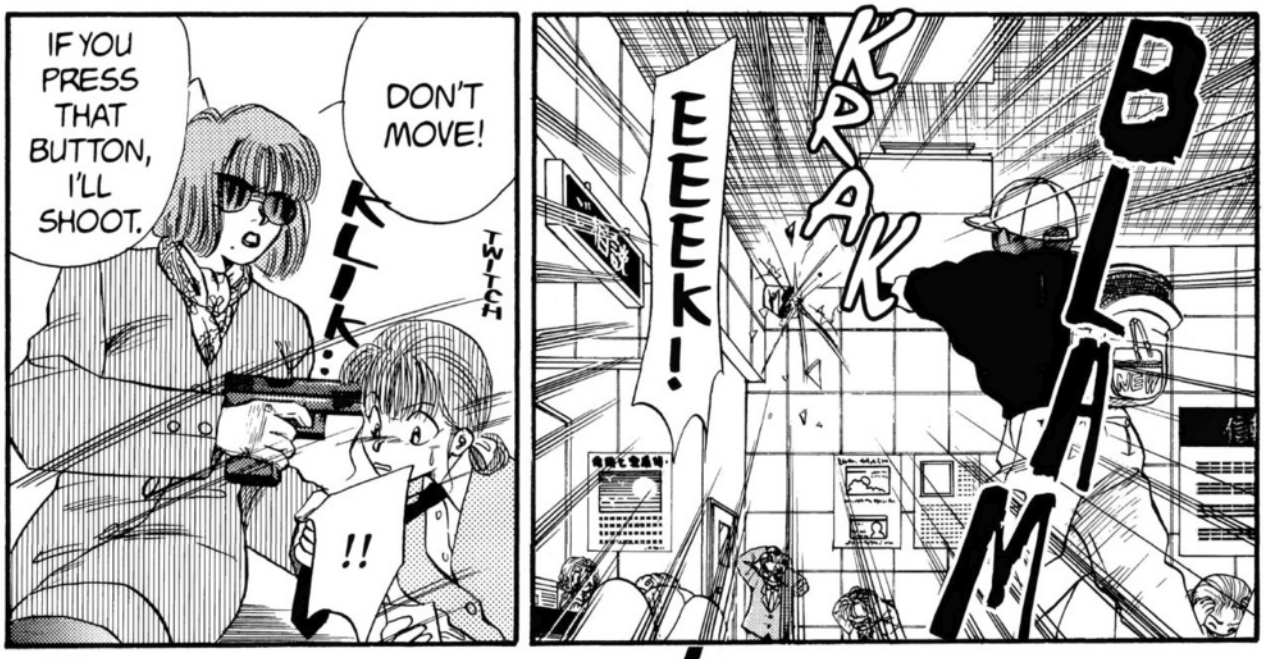
MODEL 2

Kazumi Omori, 23 years old. Blood type A

One of Takuya's dad's employees. A flashy woman with a good figure. I've never had anyone say they hate her, but then nobody's really said they like her either.

PARDON ME, THIS FORM...
YES?
TOMP
WUZZ
WUZZ
FORMS
TIK
TIK
TIK
TIK
TIK
TIK

OKAY, EVERYBODY GET FACE-DOWN WITH YOUR HANDS ON YOUR HEAD!!
AAAAAAAAH
BLAM
EEEEEK
KACHAK
Hand over the money
HUH?


IF YOU PRESS THAT BUTTON, I'LL SHOOT.
DON'T MOVE!
KLIK
TWITCH
!!

BLAM
KRAK
EEEEK!

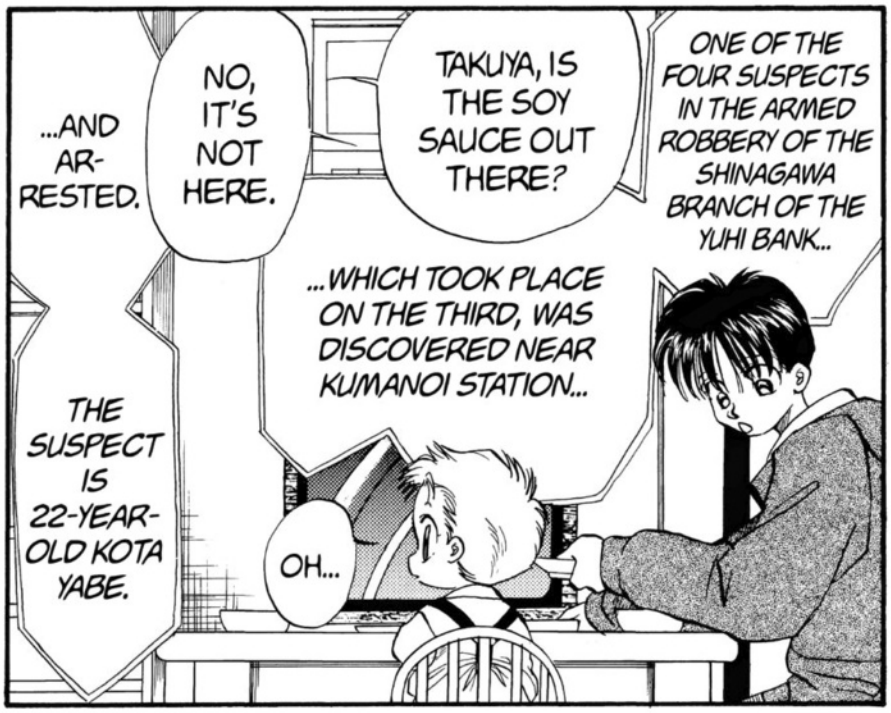
HURRY UP OR YOU'RE DEAD.
WHAP
HERE! PUT THE MONEY IN THIS! NOW!!

GOOD MORNING, IT'S 8:00 A.M. AND TIME NOW FOR THE SUNDAY MORNING NEWS.
BOMMPI BABOMM
TARO HANAYUME

CHEEP
CHEEP

YOU HAVE 50 SEC-ONDS!
TRY ANYTHING FUNNY AND THE GIRL GETS IT!!

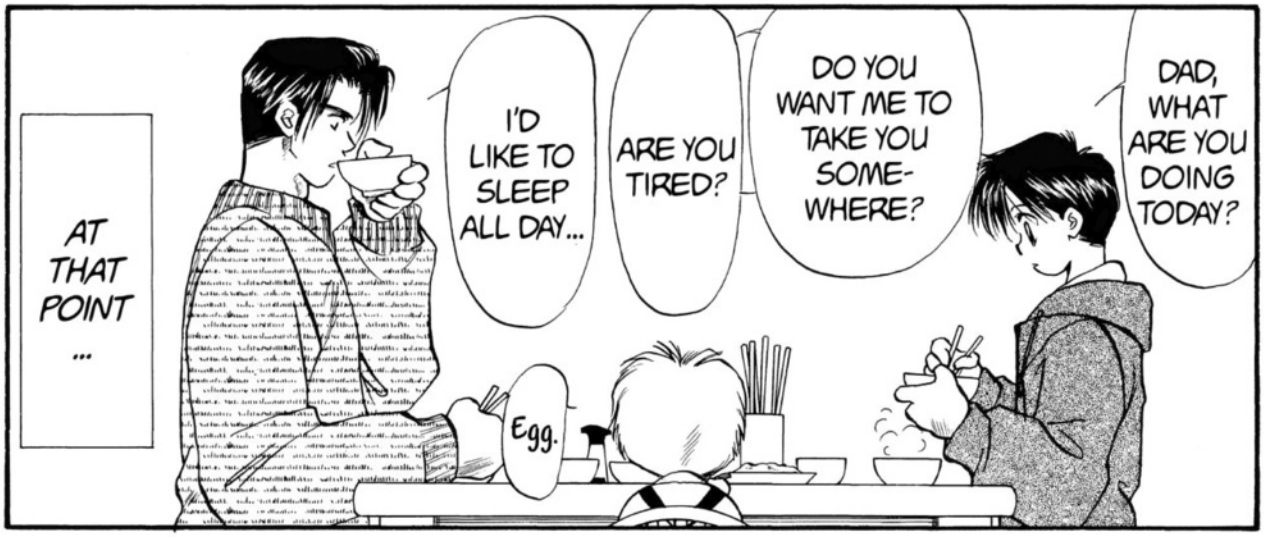
OH.
THEY CAUGHT ONE.
WHAT ?
KLAK

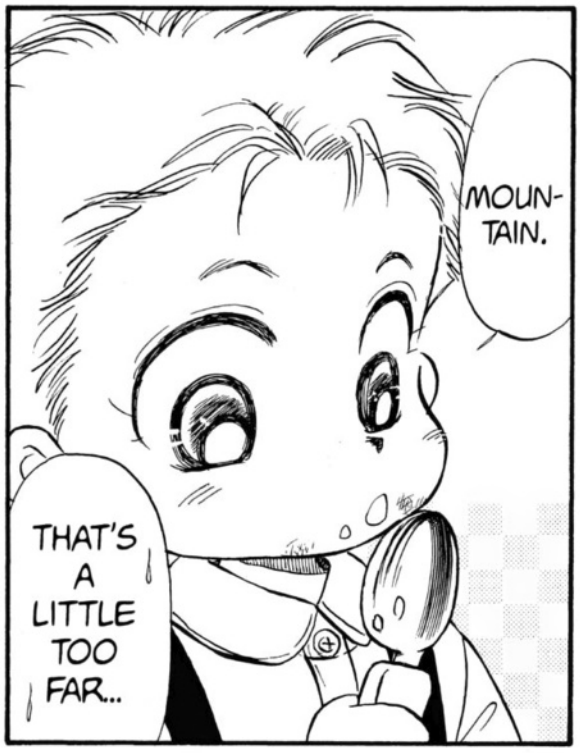

...AND AR-RESTED.
NO, IT'S NOT HERE.
TAKUYA, IS THE SOY SAUCE OUT THERE?
ONE OF THE FOUR SUSPECTS IN THE ARMED ROBBERY OF THE SHINAGAWA BRANCH OF THE YUHI BANK...
...WHICH TOOK PLACE ON THE THIRD, WAS DISCOVERED NEAR KUMANOI STATION...
THE SUSPECT IS 22-YEAR-OLD KOTA YABE.
OH...

YEAH.
YOU'D BETTER BE EXTRA CAREFUL, TAKUYA. THERE ARE STILL THREE OF THEM ON THE LOOSE.
NOD

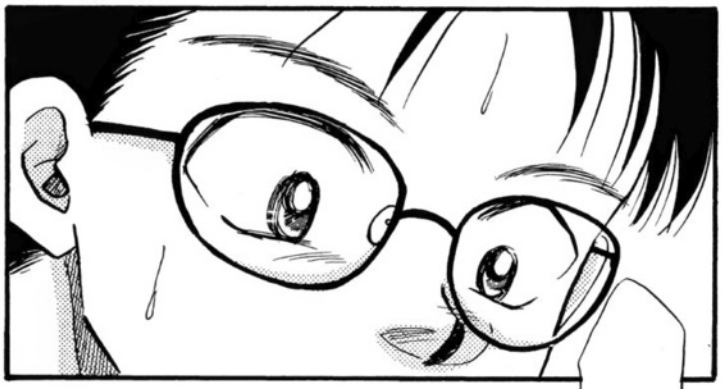
WHAT?! THAT'S RIGHT HERE!!
HE WAS ARRESTED NEAR KUMANOI STATION.

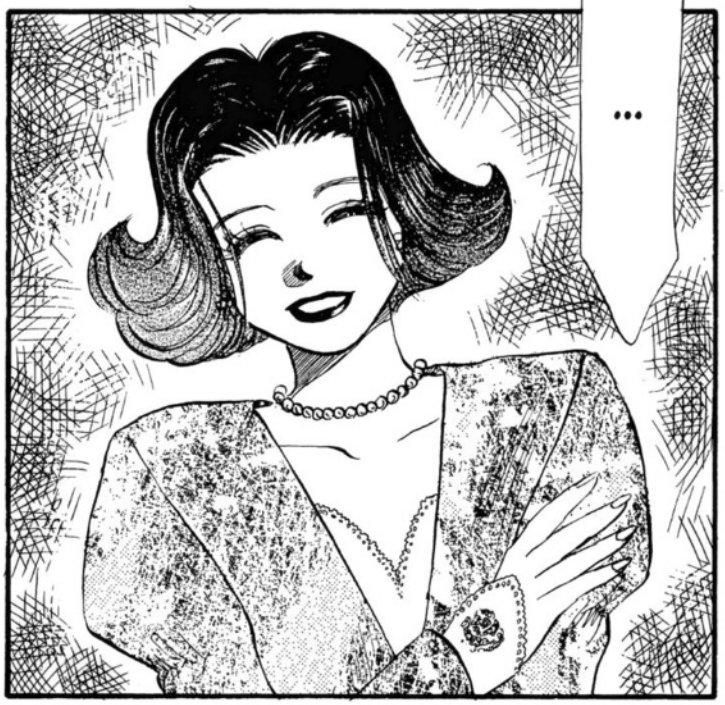
JUST ONE.
...ON THE NEWS JUST NOW.
THE BANK ROBBER ...
BUT THEY DIDN'T CATCH THE OTHERS.
Un ...


AT THAT POINT ...
I'D LIKE TO SLEEP ALL DAY...
ARE YOU TIRED?
DO YOU WANT ME TO TAKE YOU SOME-WHERE?
DAD, WHAT ARE YOU DOING TODAY?
Egg.


MOUN-TAIN.
THAT'S A LITTLE TOO FAR...

...THE BANK ROBBERY HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH OUR LITTLE WORLD.
THEN I'LL GO PLAY WITH MINORU.
MINORU, DO YOU WANT TO GO SOME-WHERE?

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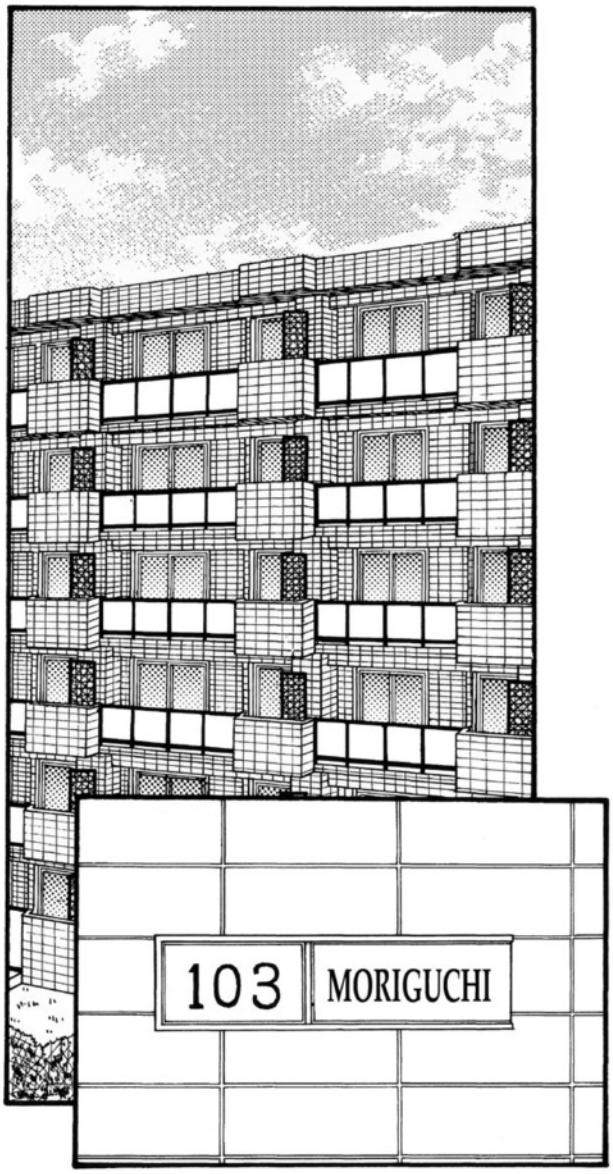
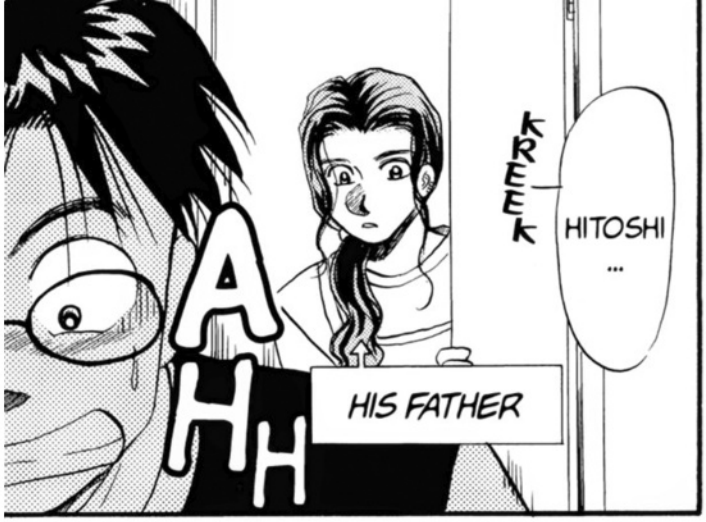
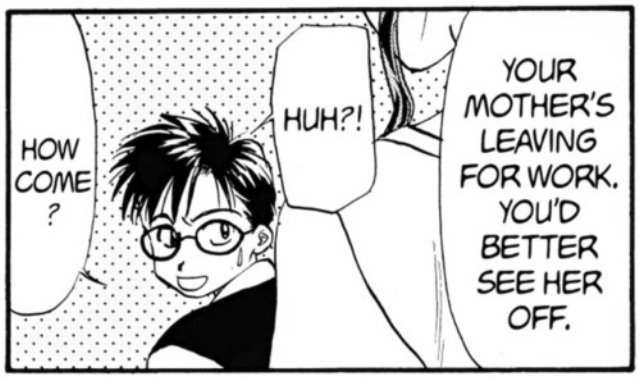
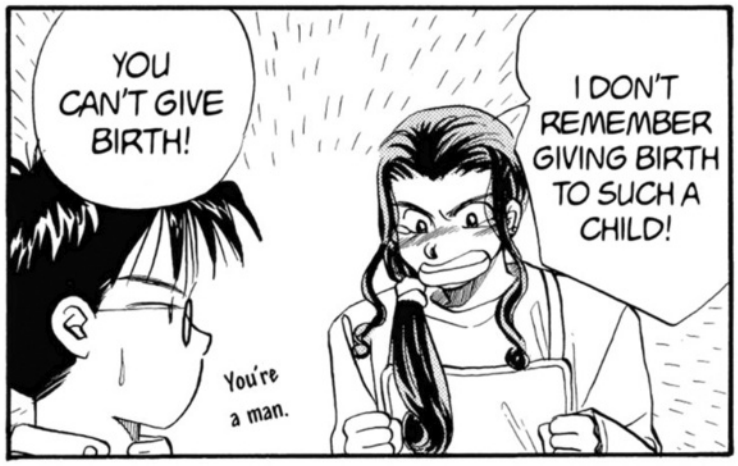

103
MORIGUCHI

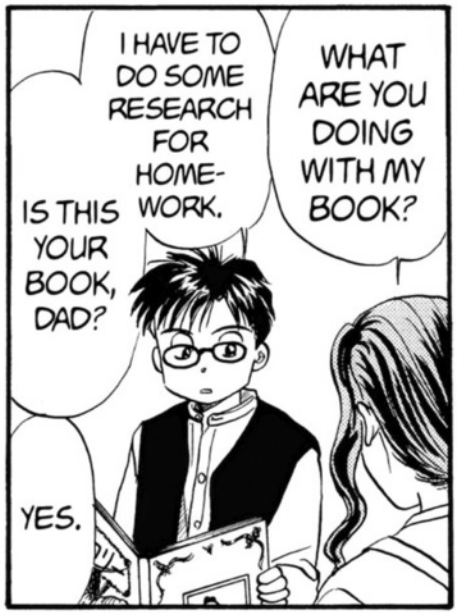

AHH
HIS FATHER
KREEK
HITOSHI ...

WHO'S THIS WOMAN?
WHAT'S HER PICTURE DOING IN THIS BOOK?
CALORIES


YOUR MOTHER'S LEAVING FOR WORK. YOU'D BETTER SEE HER OFF.
HUH?!
HOW COME ?

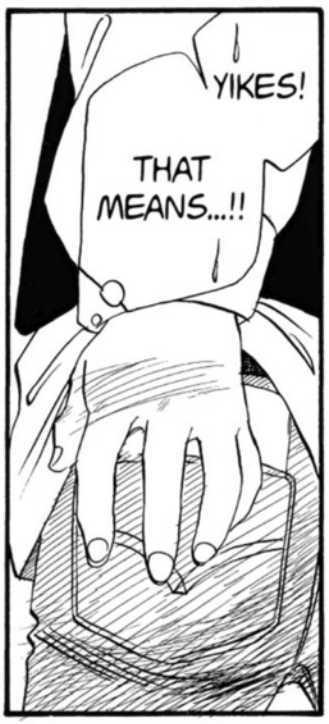

I DON'T REMEMBER GIVING BIRTH TO SUCH A CHILD!
YOU CAN'T GIVE BIRTH!
You're a man.

WHAT?
YOUR MOTHER HAS TO WORK ON SUNDAY!
DON'T YOU THINK IT'D BE NICE TO SEE HER OFF?!
HEY!


WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH MY BOOK?
I HAVE TO DO SOME RESEARCH FOR HOME-WORK.
IS THIS YOUR BOOK, DAD?
YES.

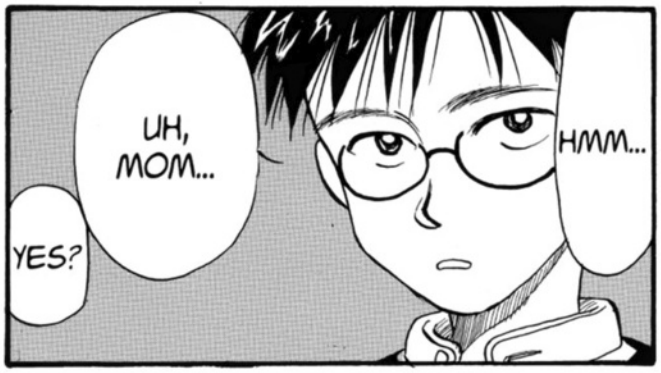
OH.

DOOM
HUH?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? HURRY UP.
IS THIS A PICTURE OF DAD'S LOVER?!


YIKES!
THAT MEANS...!!

AN OLD FRIEND'S COMING TO VISIT.
HAVE FUN?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO SEE ME OFF.
WHAT IS IT?

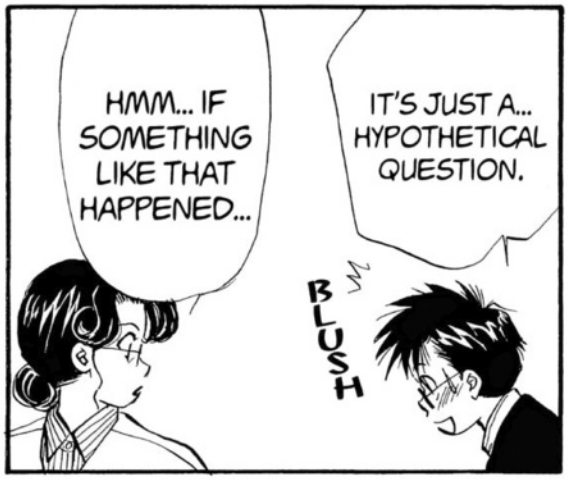

UH, MOM...
YES?
HMM...

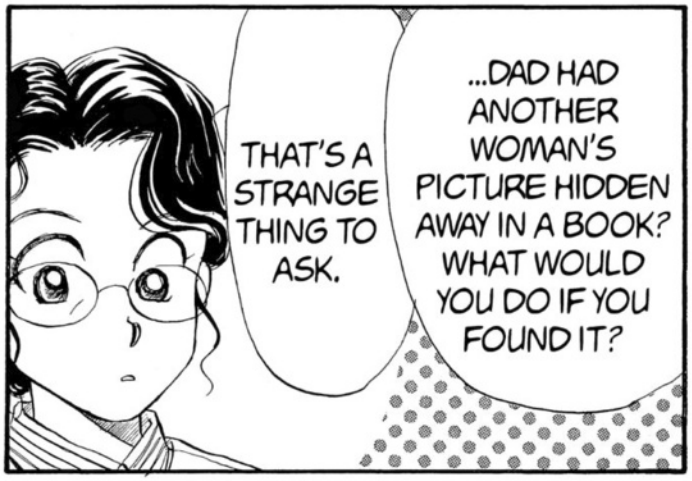
HE JUST FEELS GUILTY BECAUSE HE'S GOING TO HAVE FUN TODAY AND I HAVE TO WORK.
HA HA...
BUT DAD SAID...

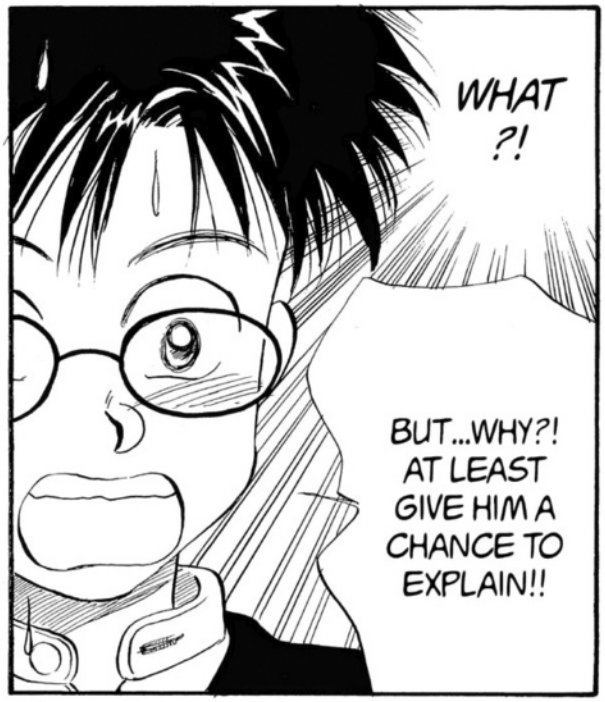
YES?
WHAT IF, UM...
WHAT IF, JUST WHAT IF...

THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE.
UM... JUST TRY TO IMAGINE.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WELL, THEN WHAT IF...

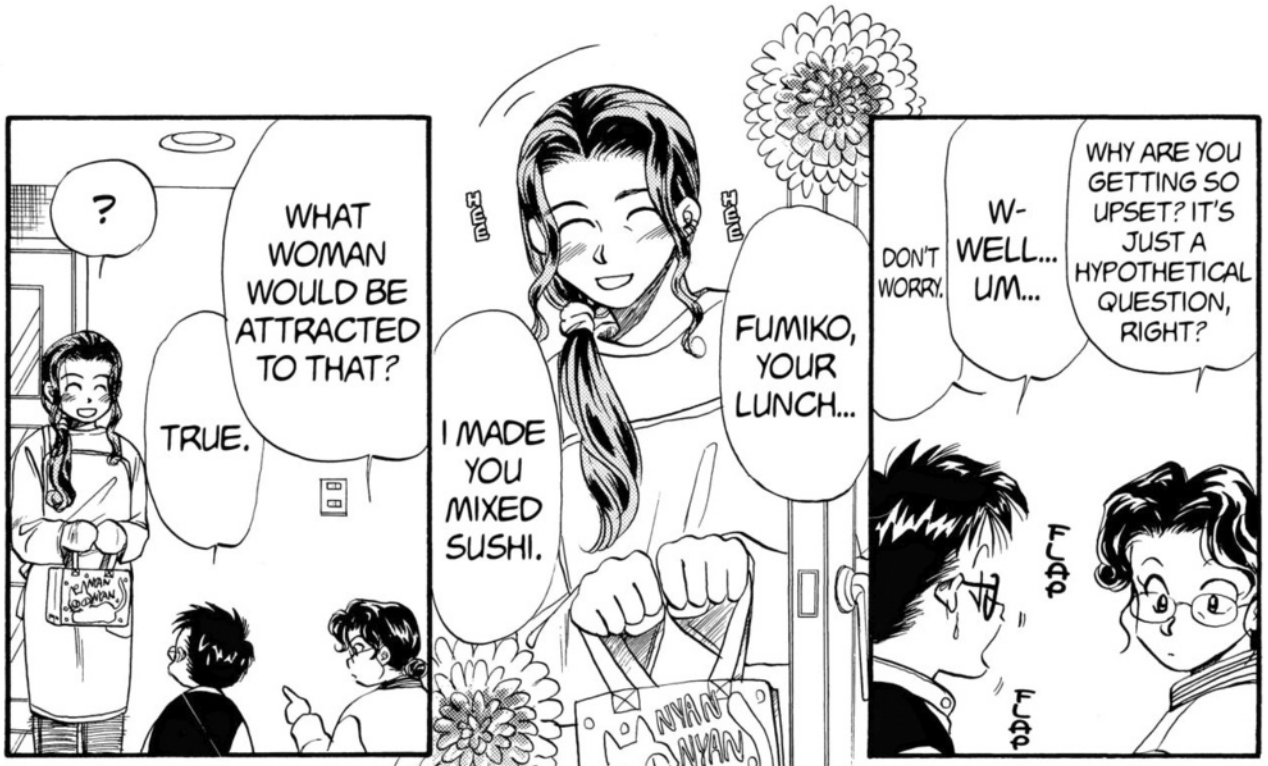
...DAD FELL IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE ELSE? WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

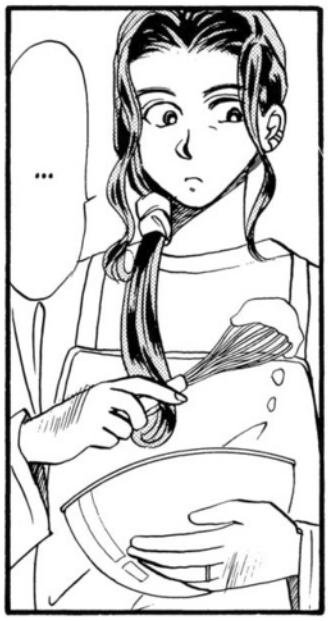

HMM... IF SOMETHING LIKE THAT HAPPENED...
IT'S JUST A... HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION.
BLUSH


THAT'S A STRANGE THING TO ASK.
...DAD HAD ANOTHER WOMAN'S PICTURE HIDDEN AWAY IN A BOOK? WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU FOUND IT?


WHAT ?!
BUT...WHY?! AT LEAST GIVE HIM A CHANCE TO EXPLAIN!!

I'D DI-VORCE HIM!


?
WHAT WOMAN WOULD BE ATTRACTED TO THAT?
TRUE.
FUMIKO, YOUR LUNCH...
I MADE YOU MIXED SUSHI.
NYAN NYAN
DON'T WORRY.
W-WELL... UM...
WHY ARE YOU GETTING SO UPSET? IT'S JUST A HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION, RIGHT?
FLAP
FLAP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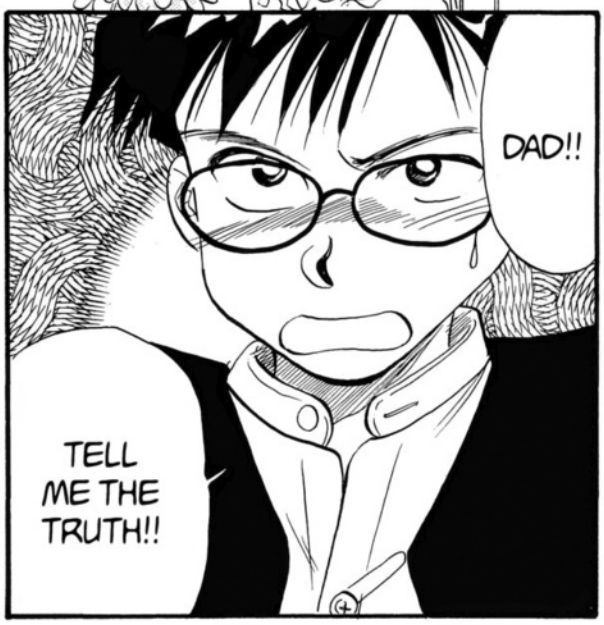
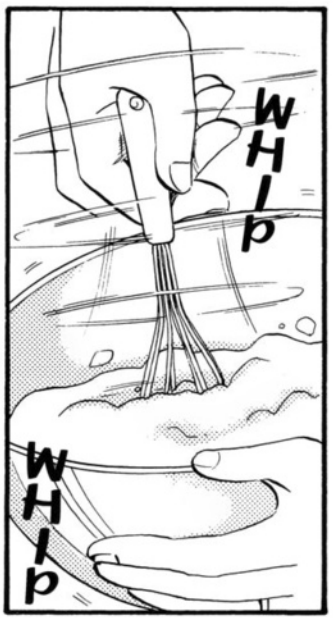
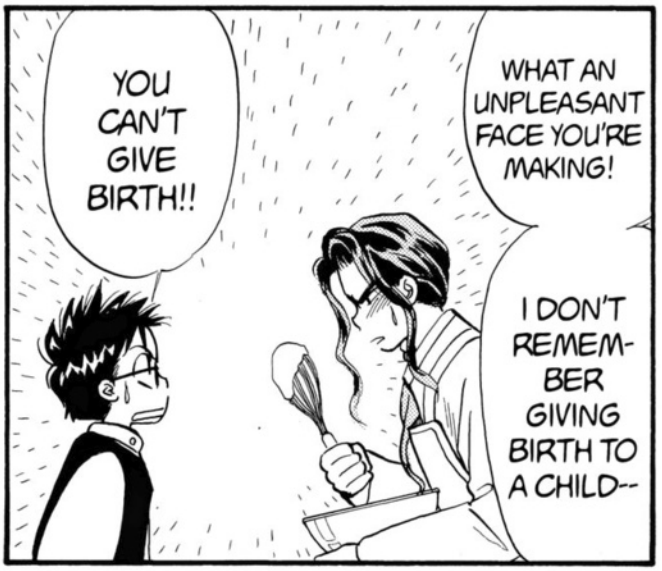

DAD!!
TELL ME THE TRUTH!!


WHIP
WHIP

...WITH HAIR LIKE THIS?
DO YOU LIKE WOMEN ...
HUH?


YOU CAN'T GIVE BIRTH!!
WHAT AN UNPLEASANT FACE YOU'RE MAKING!
I DON'T REMEMBER GIVING BIRTH TO A CHILD--

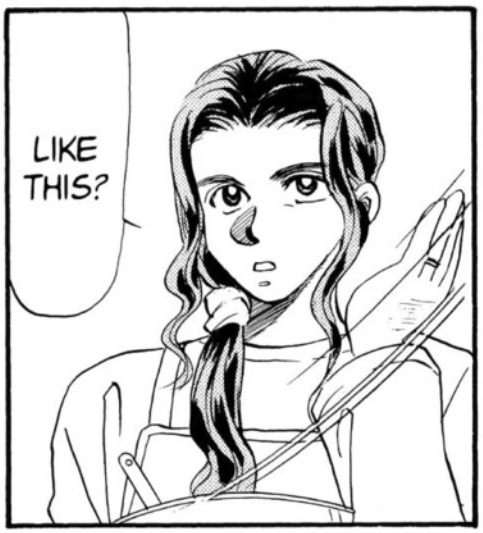
Author's Note: Part 1

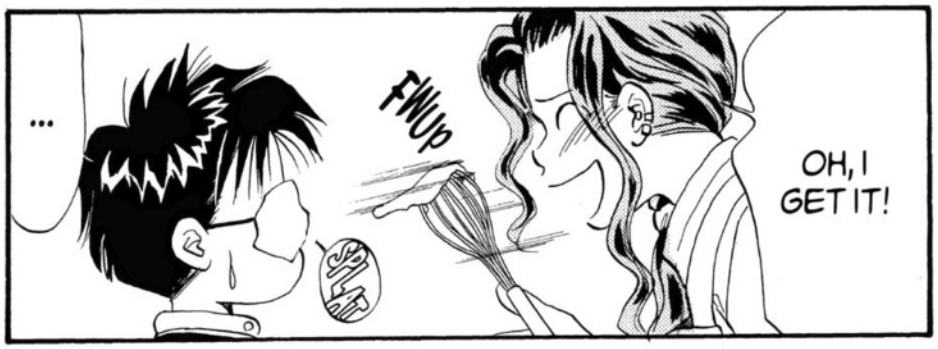
Hello, Marimo Ragawa here.

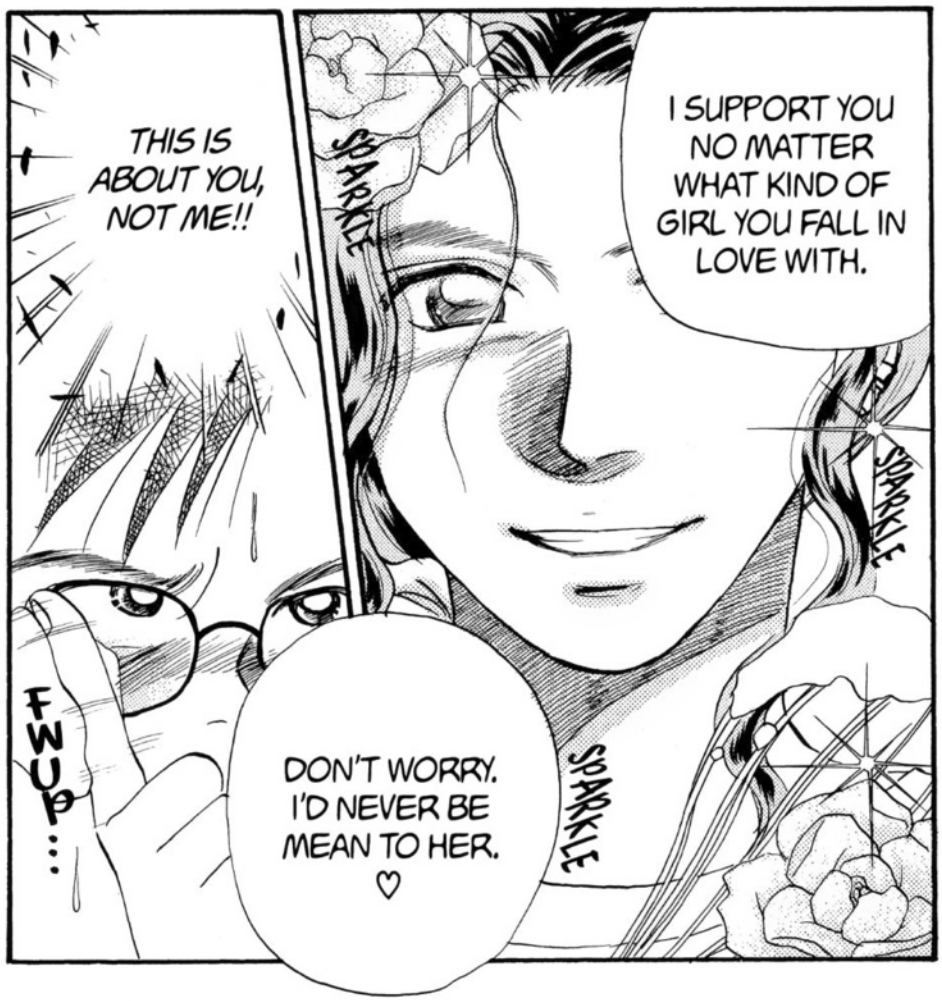
Phew...This is my last comic book for 1994. I published four volumes this year, which was very satisfying. I sure worked hard. I was "Serious Ragawa" this year. As for my future plans, my first collection of drawings will come out at the beginning of 1995. Wheeee! Boom! Boom! But I'm sad because no one understands just how happy this makes me. Most of the drawings will be based on *Baby and Me*, but I plan to include some others too, so please look out for it. (I'm going to include the drawing of the guy in the center of page 189. Yes, sir.)

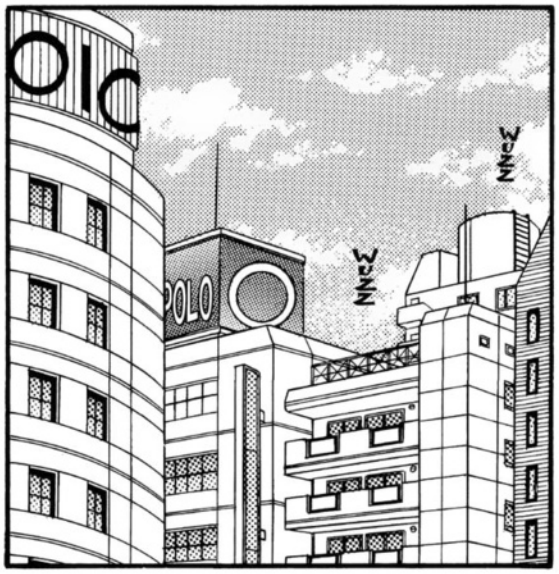
Oh, and please buy my 1995 *Baby and Me* calendar, too.

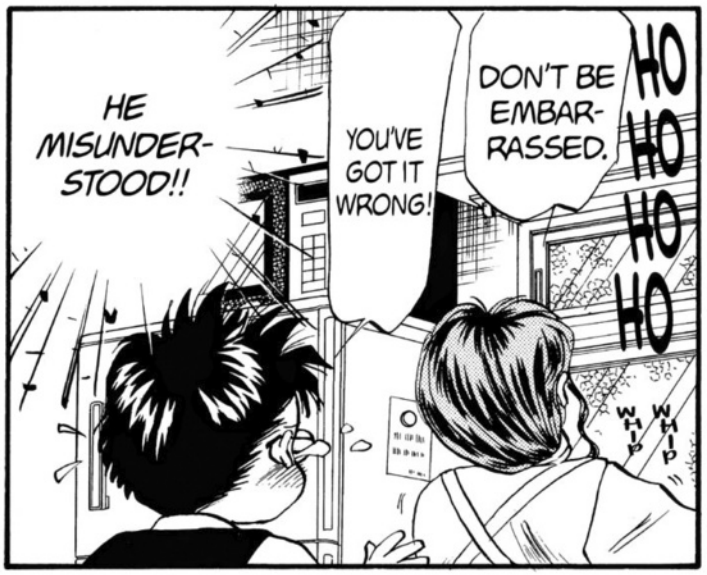
It's good to have a lot of work, but my mind and body are both exhausted.








WUZZ
WUZZ
POLO


HE MISUNDER-STOOD!!
YOU'VE GOT IT WRONG!
DON'T BE EMBAR-RASSED.
HO HO HO HO
WHIP
WHIP

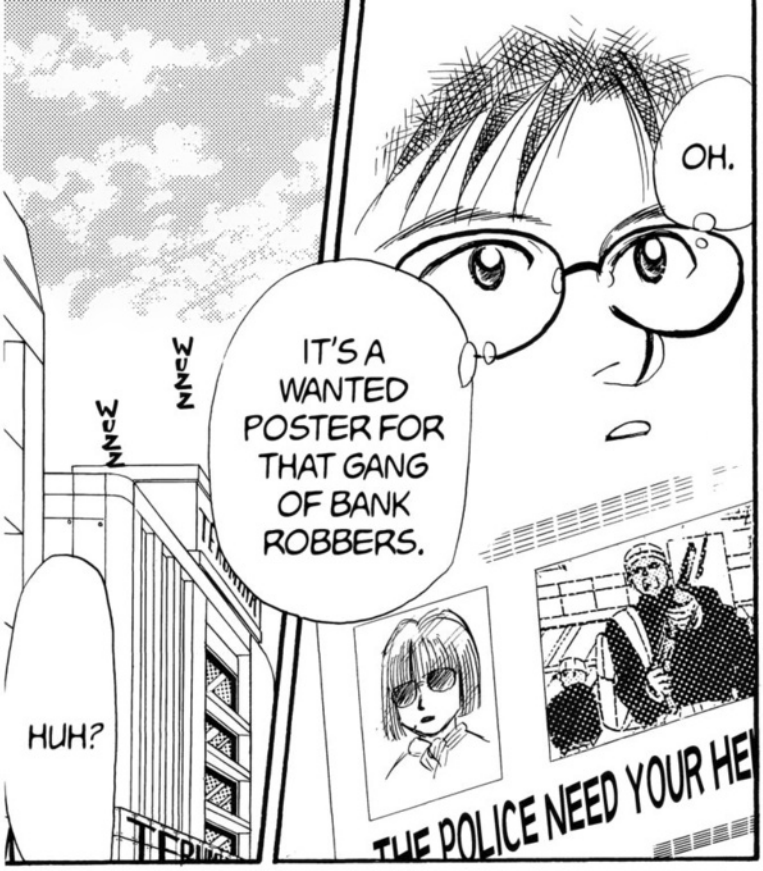
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
I FORGOT I SLIPPED THE PICTURE INTO MY POCKET...

SHOP NOVA
FWUP

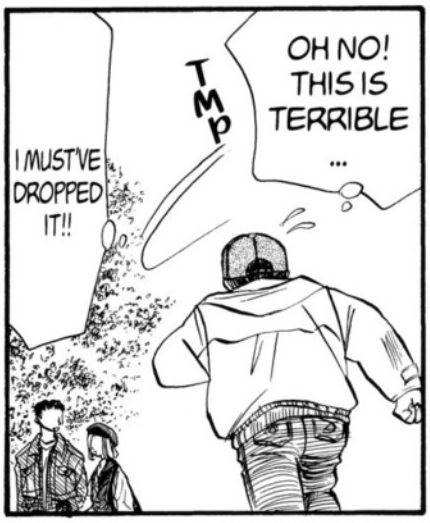
THE MAIN SHOP STATIONARY
HEY! YOUR HANDKER-CHIEF...
WUZZ
WUZZ

OH...

SIGH...
DAD WITH A WOMAN?
I NEVER THOUGHT OF THAT.
MANAGE


OH.
IT'S A WANTED POSTER FOR THAT GANG OF BANK ROBBERS.
WUZZ
WUZZ
HUH?
THE POLICE NEED YOUR HE

8-19
THE POLICE NEED YOUR HELP


OH NO! THIS IS TERRIBLE ...
TMP
I MUST'VE DROPPED IT!!

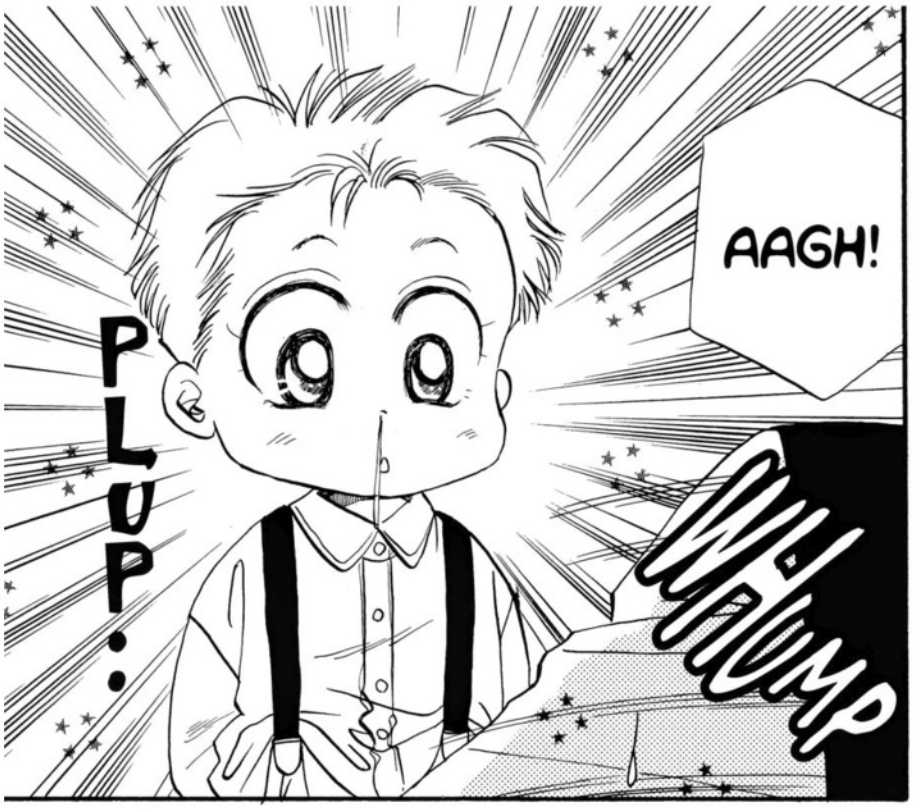
IT'S GONE!!
THE HAND-KER-CHIEF!
BA-BUMP
WHERE IS IT?!
BA-BUMP

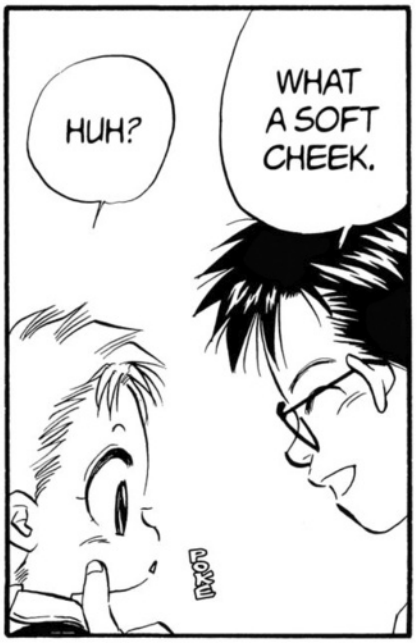
HUH? WHAT THE HECK?
RUSTLE
RUSTLE

HEY, KID!
BA-BUMP

THAT KID'S GOT IT!
This

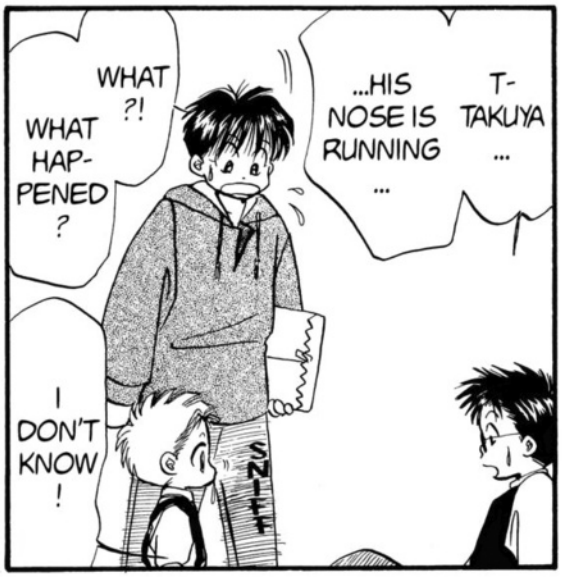
!!


AAGH!
PLUP...
WHUMP


WHAT A SOFT CHEEK.
HUH?
LOOK

ME NEITHER.
OH YEAH...
SNIFF

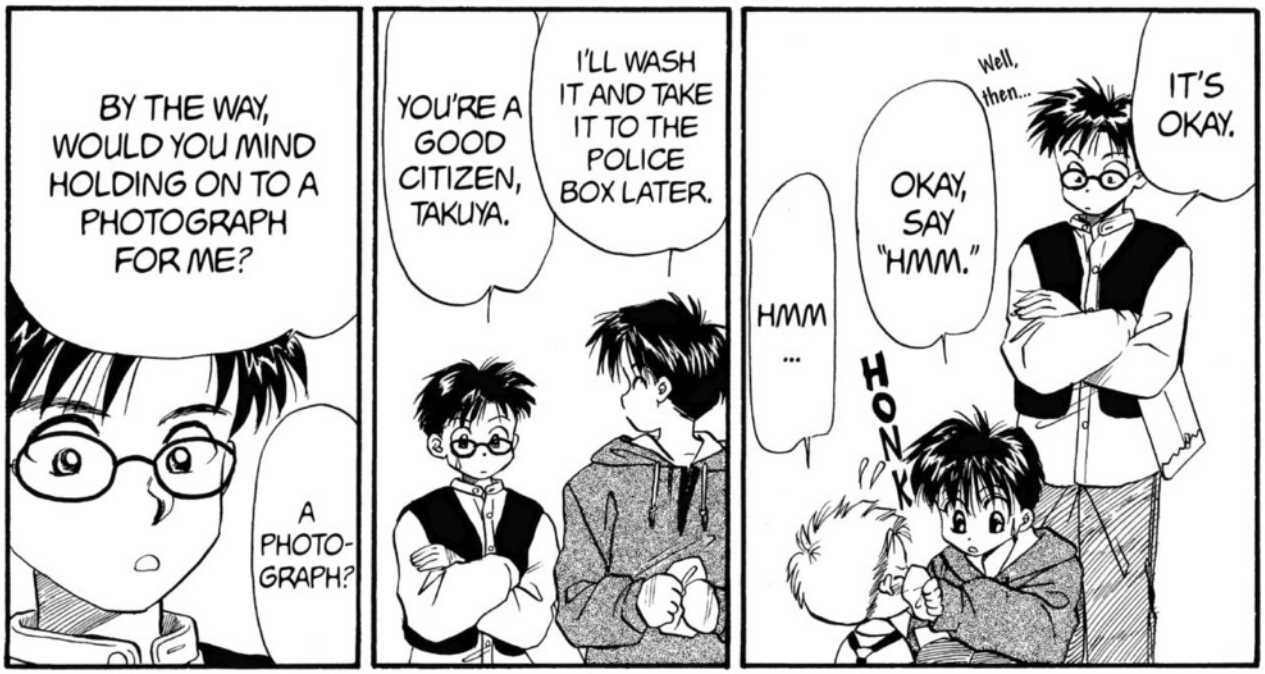
OH NO...
I DON'T HAVE ANY TISSUES.
RUSTLE RUSTLE


T-TAKUYA ...
...HIS NOSE IS RUNNING ...
WHAT ?!
WHAT HAP-PENED ?
I DON'T KNOW !
SNIFF

HEY ...
THERE'S SOME-THING WRITTEN ON IT.
Right 0 ③
Left 2 ②
5963199

HMM ...
WHUP

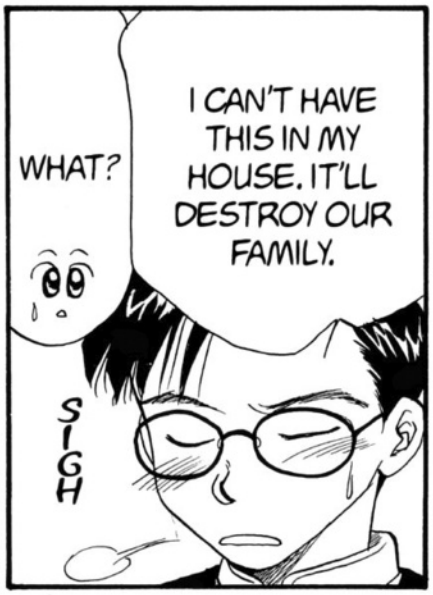
I FOUND THIS HAND-KERCHIEF. USE IT.
HUH? YOU FOUND IT? ARE YOU SURE IT'S OKAY?
SURE. WHO'S GONNA MISS IT?

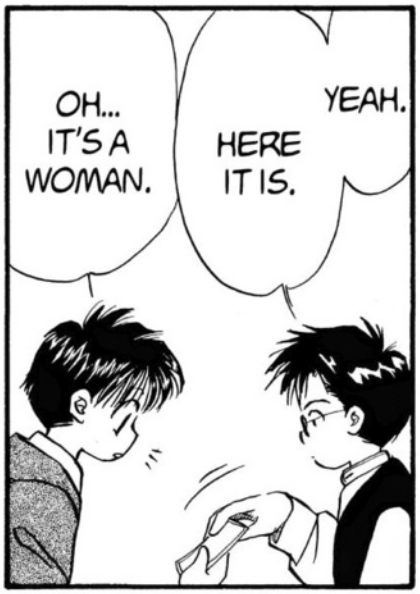

BY THE WAY, WOULD YOU MIND HOLDING ON TO A PHOTOGRAPH FOR ME?
A PHOTO-GRAPH?

YOU'RE A GOOD CITIZEN, TAKUYA.
I'LL WASH IT AND TAKE IT TO THE POLICE BOX LATER.

IT'S OKAY.
Well, then...
OKAY, SAY "HMM."
HMM ...
HONK

...IF THE COP'S GONE YET...
I WONDER ...
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP


WHAT?
I CAN'T HAVE THIS IN MY HOUSE. IT'LL DESTROY OUR FAMILY.
SIGH


OH... IT'S A WOMAN.
YEAH.
HERE IT IS.

HUH?
PARDON ME, YOUNG MAN...

TAP
TAP
I WAS HIDING FOR NOTHING.

HUH?
WAIT A MINUTE... THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT I LOOK LIKE.

CAN YOU TELL ME HOW TO GET TO THIS ADDRESS?

TA-DOOM !!

YOU OBVIOUSLY STARTLED THE YOUNG MAN.

HO HO HO HO

WHAT DID YOU SAY?!

MAMA ...

YOU'RE BEHAVING SHAMEFULLY!! YOUR BREEDING IS SHOWING.

CHERRY!!

B-BUT

WHAT ?

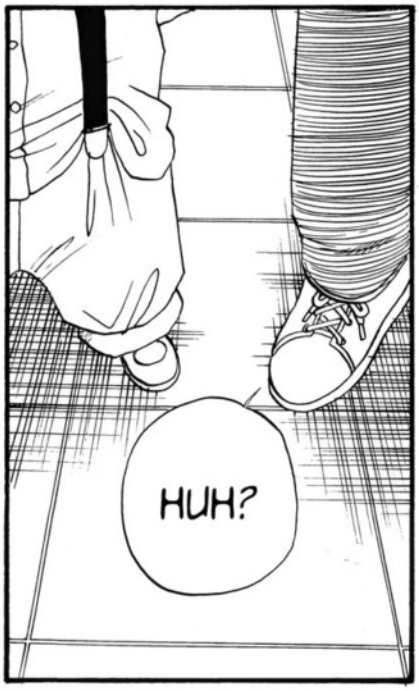
AH!! M-MONSTER!!

TWITCH

EEEK ...

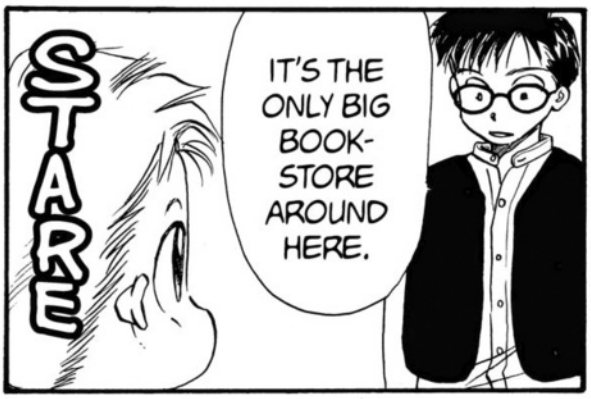
WHAP

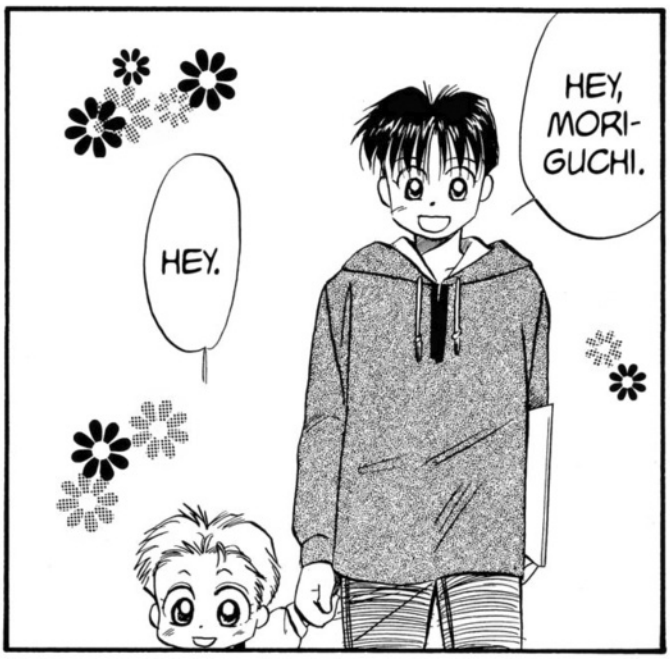
WHAT DID YOU SAY? HOW DARE YOU?!

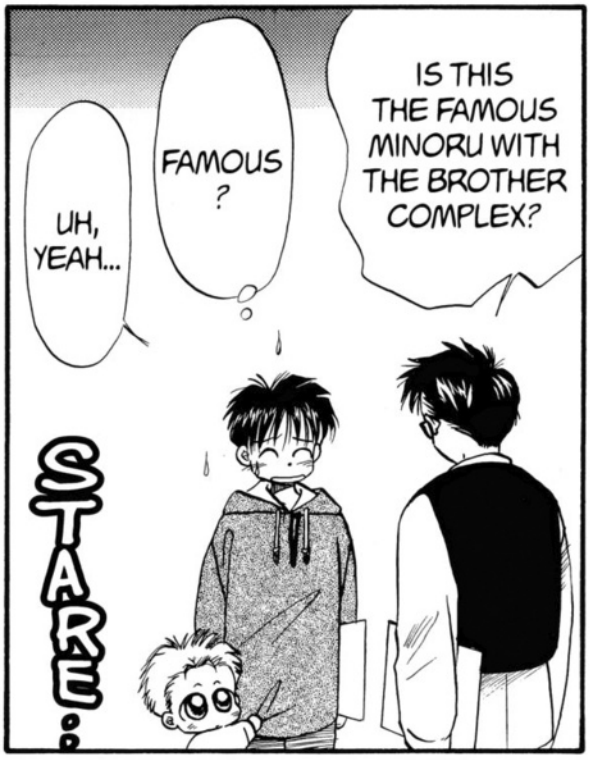

HUH?

THIS IS BAD...
SWIP...

WHOA! IT'S A COP!!

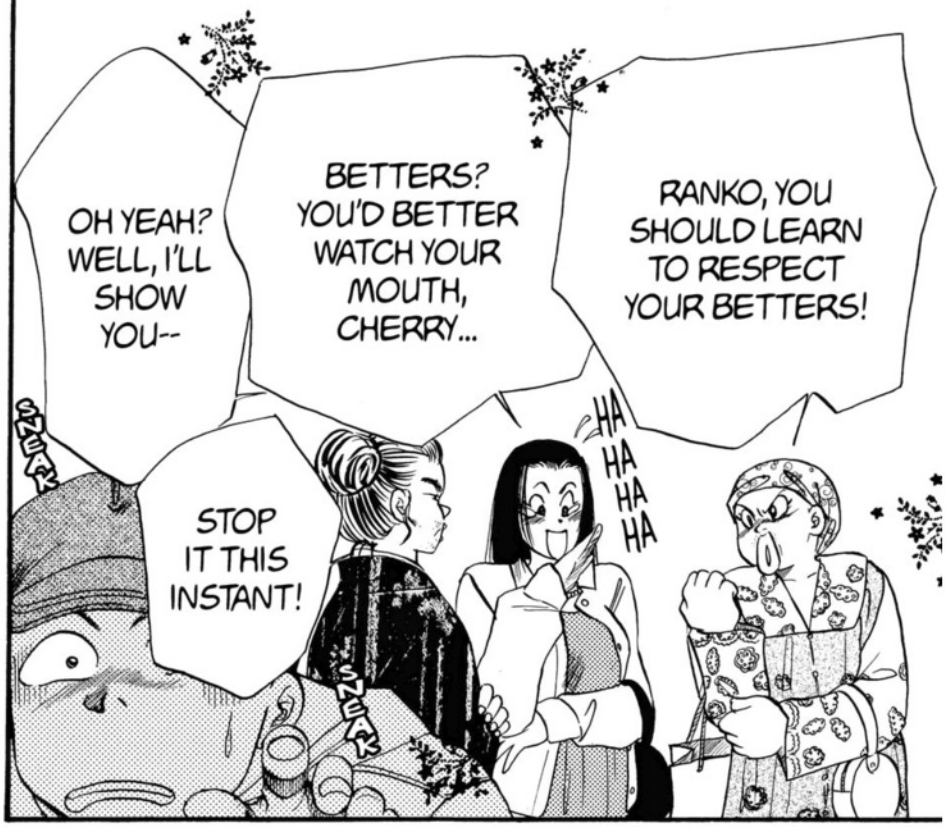

IT'S THE ONLY BIG BOOK-STORE AROUND HERE.
STARE

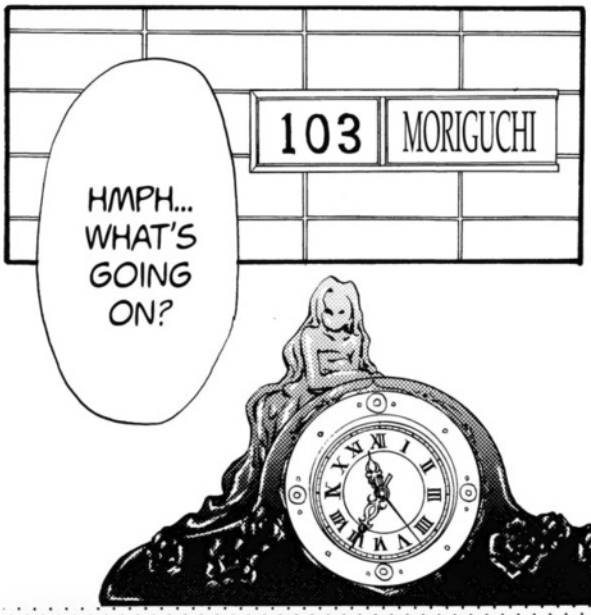

HEY, MORI-GUCHI.
HEY.


IS THIS THE FAMOUS MINORU WITH THE BROTHER COMPLEX?
FAMOUS ?
UH, YEAH...
STARE...

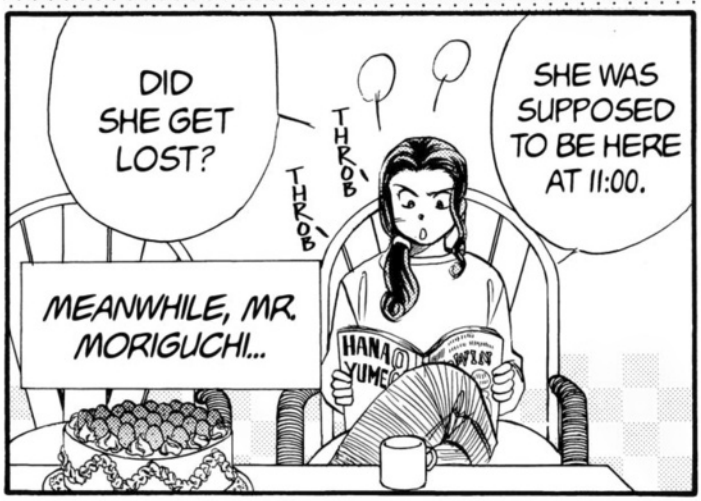
OH, TAKUYA.
WERE YOU IN THE BOOK-STORE?
WE WERE THERE A LITTLE WHILE AGO.

S-SCARY... I'D BETTER GET OUTTA HERE BEFORE THEY KILL ME...
SZLAK
SZLAK
I TOLD YOU TO STOP IT, DIDN'T I?
EEEK!! YOU GET ME SO MAD...

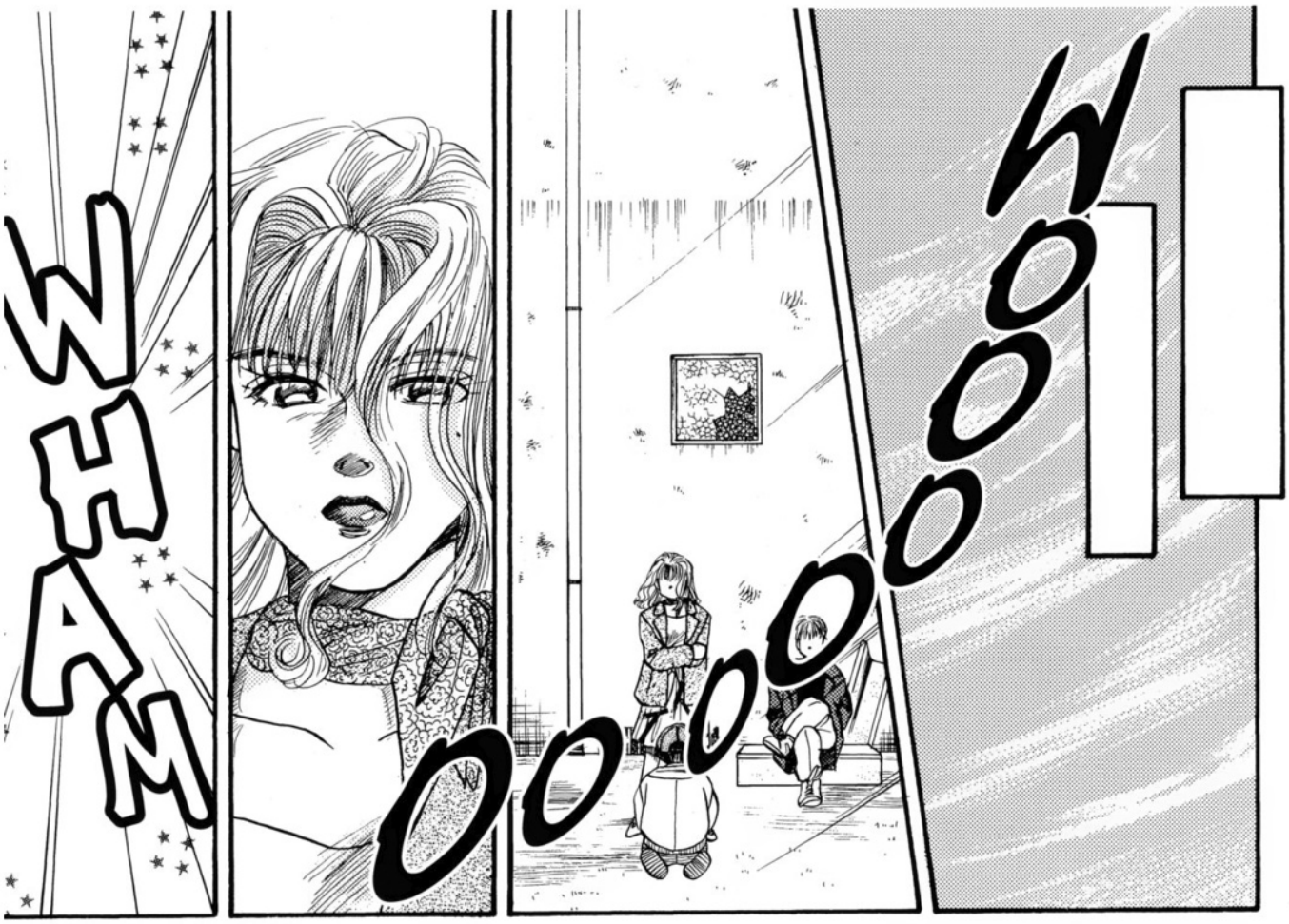

OH YEAH? WELL, I'LL SHOW YOU--
BETTERS? YOU'D BETTER WATCH YOUR MOUTH, CHERRY...
RANKO, YOU SHOULD LEARN TO RESPECT YOUR BETTERS!
SZLAK
STOP IT THIS INSTANT!
SZLAK
HA HA HA HA


103 MORIGUCHI
HMPH... WHAT'S GOING ON?

WHAT

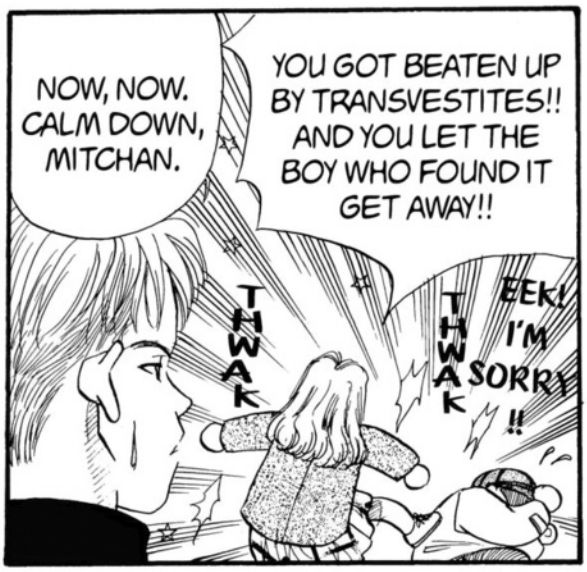

DID SHE GET LOST?
THROB
THROB
SHE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE HERE AT 11:00.
MEANWHILE, MR. MORIGUCHI...
HANA YUME

WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
EEEK!!


WHAM
OOOOOO
WHO!

YOU DROPPED IT?! MORON!!
Ha... ha ha ha...
YOU IDIOT!

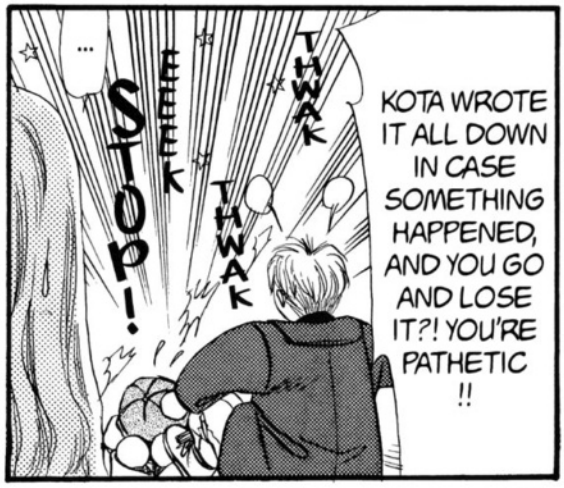
WHY DID KOTA HAVE TO TRUST AKIRA WITH THE HANDKERCHIEF?!
POOR KOTA. I CAN'T BELIEVE HE GOT CAUGHT.
WE'LL NEVER GET THE MONEY OUT OF THE SAFE WITHOUT THAT SECRET CODE!!


NOW, NOW. CALM DOWN, MITCHAN.
YOU GOT BEATEN UP BY TRANSVESTITES!! AND YOU LET THE BOY WHO FOUND IT GET AWAY!!
THWAK
THWAK
EEK! I'M SORRY!!

SPURT
I-IT WAS SO LONG! IT WAS TOO MUCH TROUBLE TO MEMORIZE ALL THAT.
HA HA HA

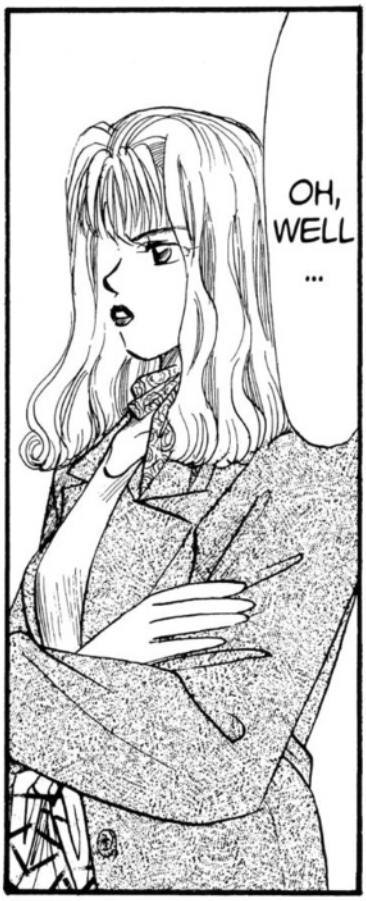
...

AKIRA?
OKAY.
YOU LOOKED AT THE HANDKERCHIEF, RIGHT? CAN'T YOU REMEMBER WHAT WAS ON IT?


...
STOP!
THWAK
THWAK
THWAK
KOTA WROTE IT ALL DOWN IN CASE SOMETHING HAPPENED, AND YOU GO AND LOSE IT?! YOU'RE PATHETIC !!

I DON'T KNOW. THAT KID WAS LOOKING AT OUR WANTED POSTER.
WE'RE PEACE-LOVING PEOPLE. WE'LL JUST CONVINCE HIM TO GIVE IT BACK.
SHUT UP! HE'LL NEVER RECOGNIZE US FROM THOSE PICTURES.
Our faces were covered and Mitchan was wearing a disguise.

YEAH, BUT... HOW AM I GONNA GET IT BACK?
WE JUST HAVE TO FIND THAT KID. YOU REMEMBER WHAT HE LOOKED LIKE?
HE'LL GET SUSPICIOUS AND TELL THE COPS WHAT I LOOK LIKE!


OH, WELL ...

IF WE KILL THAT KID AND SINK HIM TO THE BOTTOM OF TOKYO BAY, WHO'S TO KNOW IT WAS US?
THAT'S RIGHT.

WITHOUT THE MONEY, WE CAN'T LEAVE THE COUNTRY. WE HAVE TO GET THAT HANDKERCHIEF BACK. RIGHT, MITCHAN?
IF WORST COMES TO WORST, WE'LL USE FORCE.

HYUK HYUK HYUK
I DON'T GET IT, BUT I'LL JUST LAUGH TOO.
HO HO HO HO
HA HA HA HA

SIGH ...
TAKUYA, YOU'RE LUCKY. YOUR DAD'S A REAL MAN.
POGARI

MEANWHILE, THE TRANSVESTITES...
WE CAN'T EVEN FIND A PHONE. WHAT A DISAS-TER.
5-CHOME? BUT WHERE'S 1-CHOME?
OH, DEAR. WILL WE EVER FIND THIS PLACE?
YACK
YACK

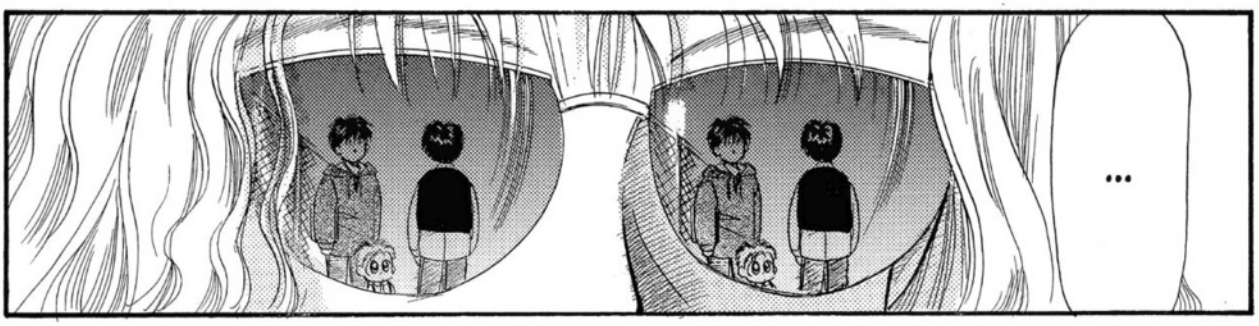
IDIOT!
WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING ABOUT?! THIS IS SERIOUS!!
EEEEK!
THWAK
THWAK

I DON'T THINK HE'S GAY.
YOU MEAN HE'S GUH... GUH...
LET ME TELL YOU THIS. MY FATHER TALKS LIKE A WOMAN. HE EVEN WEARS MAKEUP.
WELL, YOU KNOW, THE GRASS IS ALWAYS GREENER...
ACCORDING TO MY DAD, A HOMOSEXUAL HAS THE HEART OF A WOMAN. BUT HE LOVES MY MOM, SO HE SAYS HE'S DEFINITELY GOT THE HEART OF A MAN.
I-I SEE.
AND HE LIKES TO COOK, AND SEW, AND DO HOUSE-WORK.
SOME-THING THAT SAYS, "I'M A MAN!"
I JUST WISH I COULD SEE A MORE MASCULINE SIDE OF HIM.
I JUST COULDN'T STAND TO STAY HOME.
A CAKE !!
HE'S BAKING A CAKE FOR A FRIEND WHO'S COMING TO VISIT.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT MY DAD'S DOING RIGHT NOW?
GUETH WHAT?
The whole place smelled like vanilla ex-tract!!
WHAT ?!
THAT'S GREAT! THAT'S HOW A WORKING MAN SPENDS HIS WEEKENDS!!
MY DAD'S HOME SLEEPING.
YUM... STWAW-BEWWY...
AHH :
CAKE ITH YUMMY.
HUH?

WELL, YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T WANT TO BE AT YOUR HOUSE.
WHAT?
ARE YOU SURE IT'S OKAY?
NO PROB-LEM.

YOU WANNA COME PLAY AT OUR HOUSE?
MORI-GUCHI ...

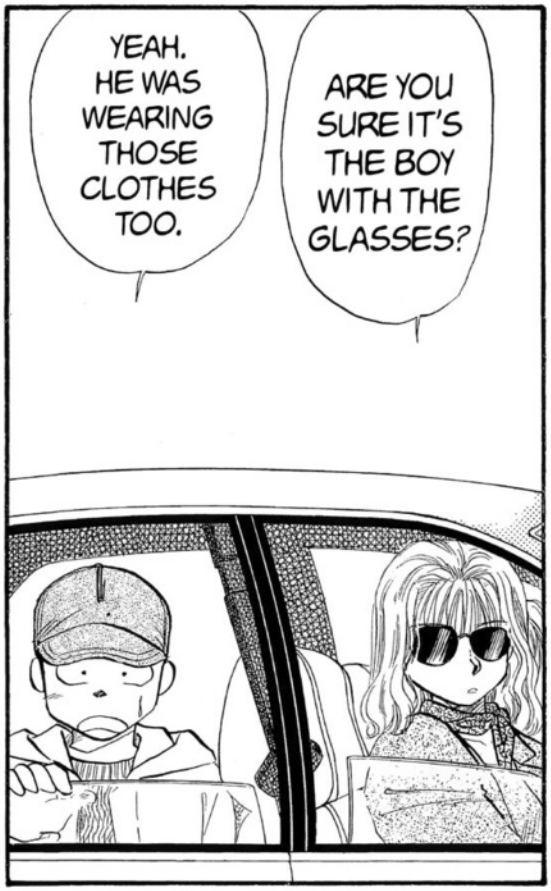
I JUST WON-DERED.
HUH? WHY?
DO YOU HAVE A GOOD HOME LIFE?
Uh?


...

GET HIM, YOU FOOL!
WHAM

...

HUH?
WELL, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?


YEAH. HE WAS WEARING THOSE CLOTHES TOO.
ARE YOU SURE IT'S THE BOY WITH THE GLASSES?

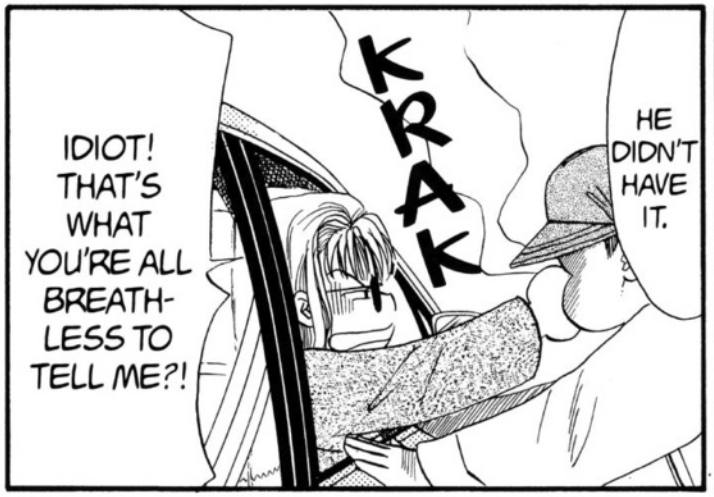
...

DIDN'T YOU FIND A HANDKER-CHIEF?

OH... HEY...
EXCUSE ME.

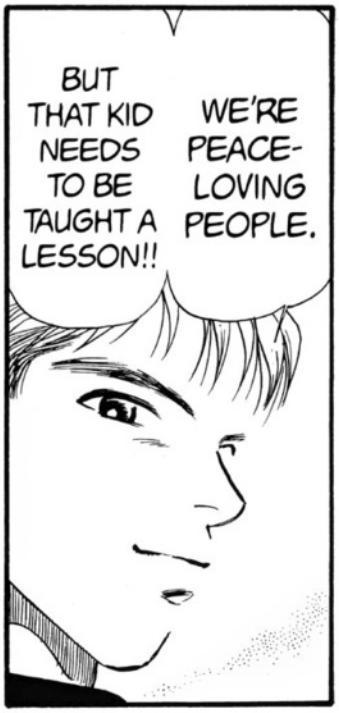
MORI-GUCHI ...
WELL, THAT HAND-KERCHIEF'S COVERED WITH SNOT.
ANYWAY, I PICKED IT UP NEAR THE STATION. WHY WOULD HE FOLLOW ME ALL THE WAY HERE?
TMP
TMP
TMP

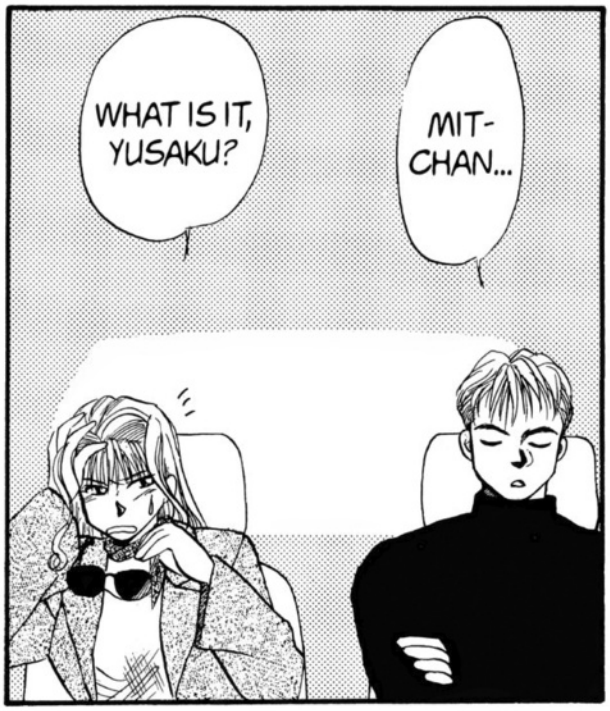
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
OH. REALLY?

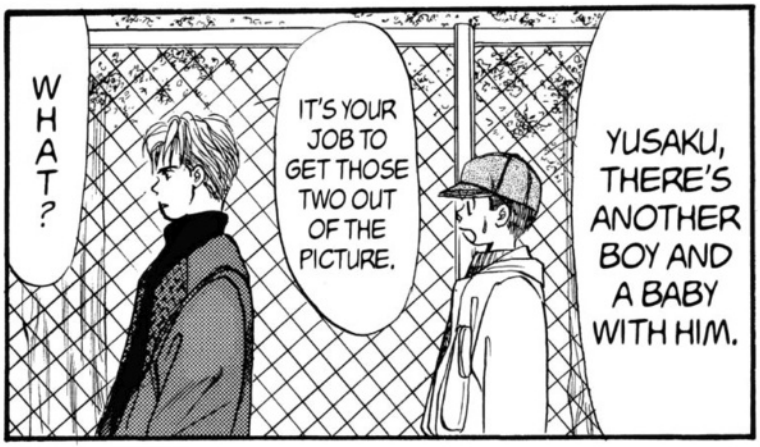

HE DIDN'T HAVE IT.
KRAK
IDIOT! THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE ALL BREATH-LESS TO TELL ME?!

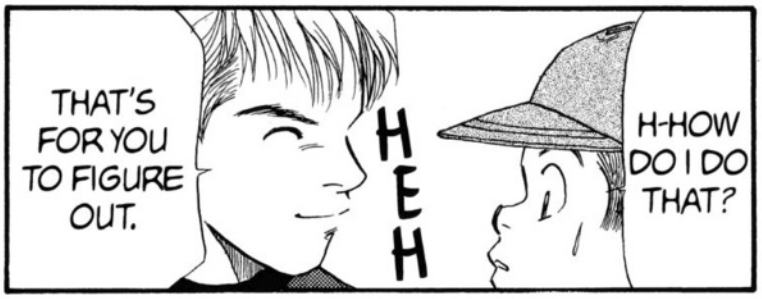
MITCHAN, I'M BACK.
WELL? DID YOU GET IT?
HUFF
HUFF

BLUSH
YUSAKU ...


WE'RE PEACE-LOVING PEOPLE.
BUT THAT KID NEEDS TO BE TAUGHT A LESSON!!


MIT-CHAN...
WHAT IS IT, YUSAKU?


YUSAKU, THERE'S ANOTHER BOY AND A BABY WITH HIM.
IT'S YOUR JOB TO GET THOSE TWO OUT OF THE PICTURE.
WHAT?


H-HOW DO I DO THAT?
HEH
THAT'S FOR YOU TO FIGURE OUT.

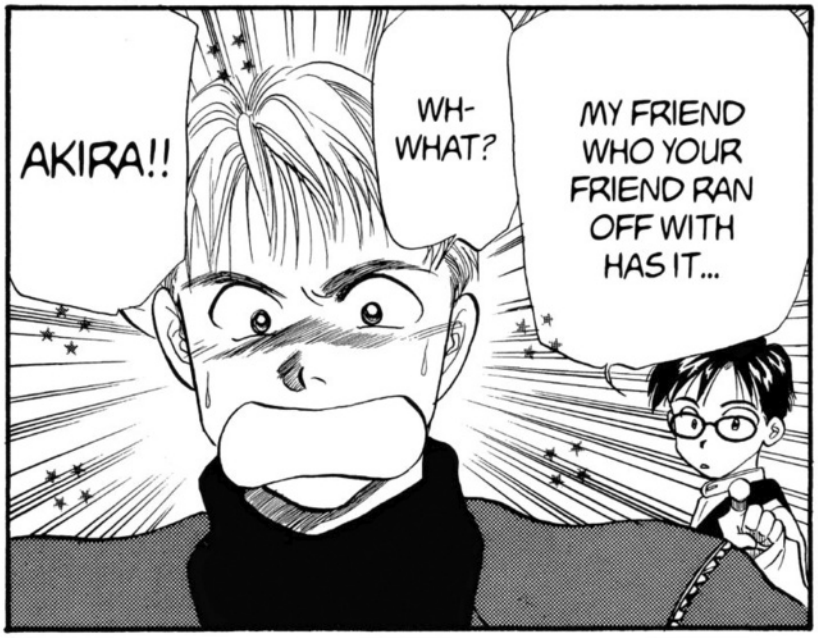
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS GET THOSE TWO OUT OF THE WAY?
YOU HEARD ME. DON'T MAKE ME REPEAT MYSELF.

PLEASE TEACH ME. ♡
OKAY.
DRIVE THE CAR OVER TO WHERE THE KID IS.

TMP TMP TMP TMP
TMP TMP TMP TMP
TMP TMP TMP
C'MON !! ♡
THWAP
LET'S GO PLAY!
TMP TMP TMP T MP TMP !!!
CAN I HAVE THE HANDKERCHIEF YOU FOUND? IT BELONGS TO ME.
...
HUH?
YOU THERE ...
MORI-GUCHI !
HEY?!
AH!!
HE'S AMAZING, BUT NOT NECESSARILY IN A GOOD WAY.
TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP
GULP..

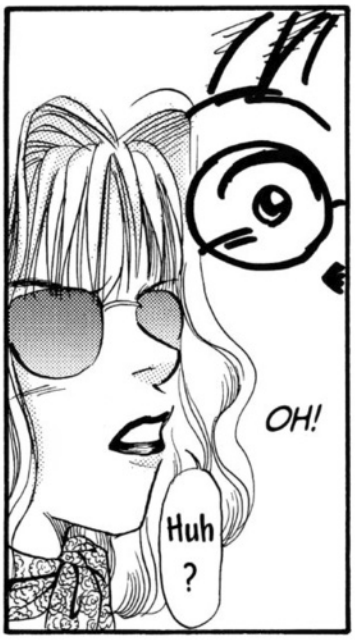
WHAT ARE YOU UP TO? YOU MUST'VE BEEN FOLLOWING ME EVER SINCE I PICKED IT UP NEAR THE STATION!
C'MON, KID! IT'S IMPORTANT TO ME!! IT WAS MY FATHER'S.
So you do have it.

WHAT IS THIS? ARE YOU WITH THAT OTHER GUY?
LISTEN. WE JUST WANT THE HAND-KERCHIEF, THAT'S ALL.
WHAP

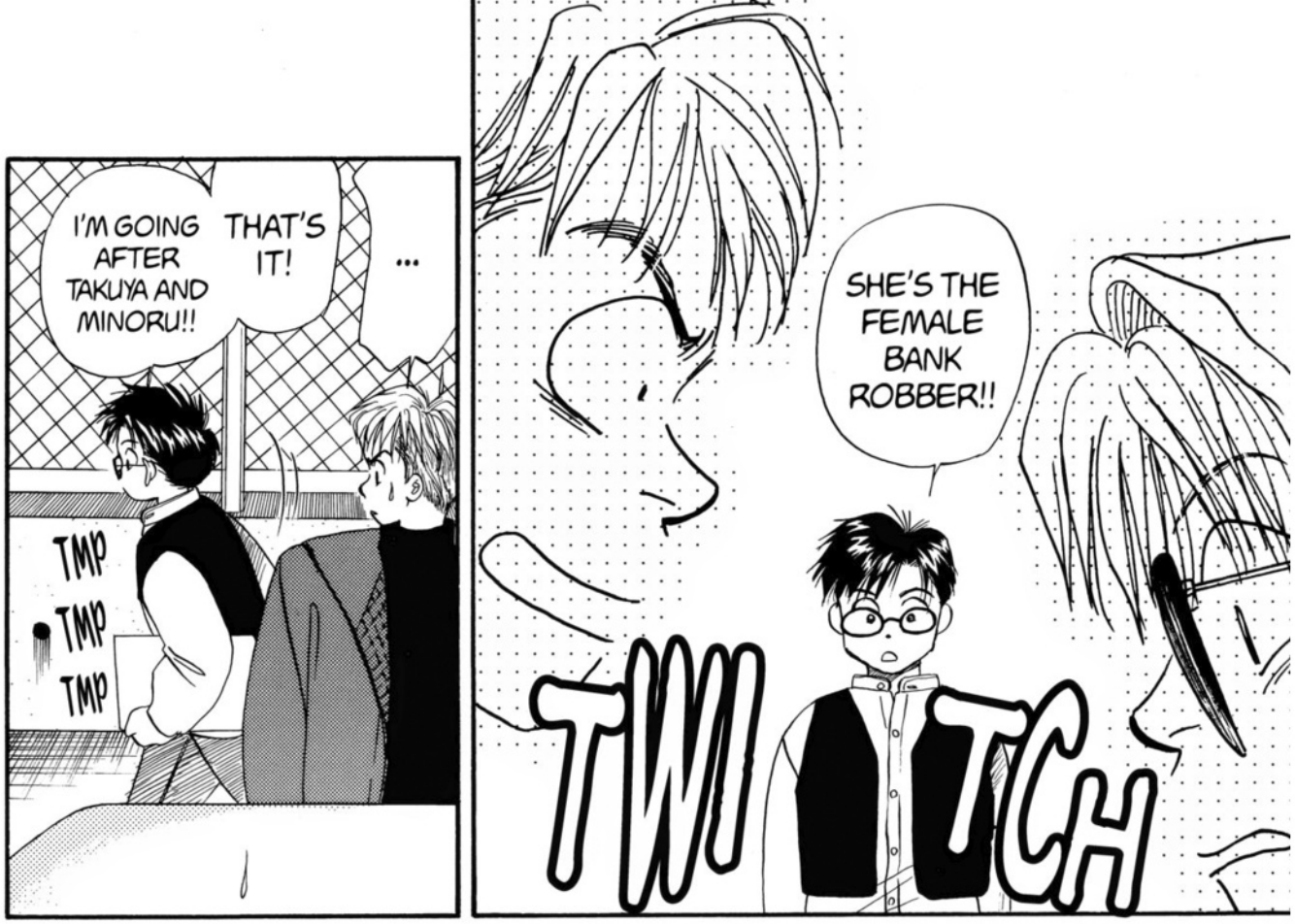

AKIRA!!
WH-WHAT?
MY FRIEND WHO YOUR FRIEND RAN OFF WITH HAS IT...

WHAT?! WHAT DID YOU DO WITH IT?!
BUT I DON'T HAVE IT.

PLONK
GIVE THAT WOMAN A BEAUTY MARK...
PLONK
...AND PUT A WIG LIKE THIS ON HER...


OH!
Huh ?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YUSAKU?!
NEVER MIND THAT. GO GET THE OTHER KID.

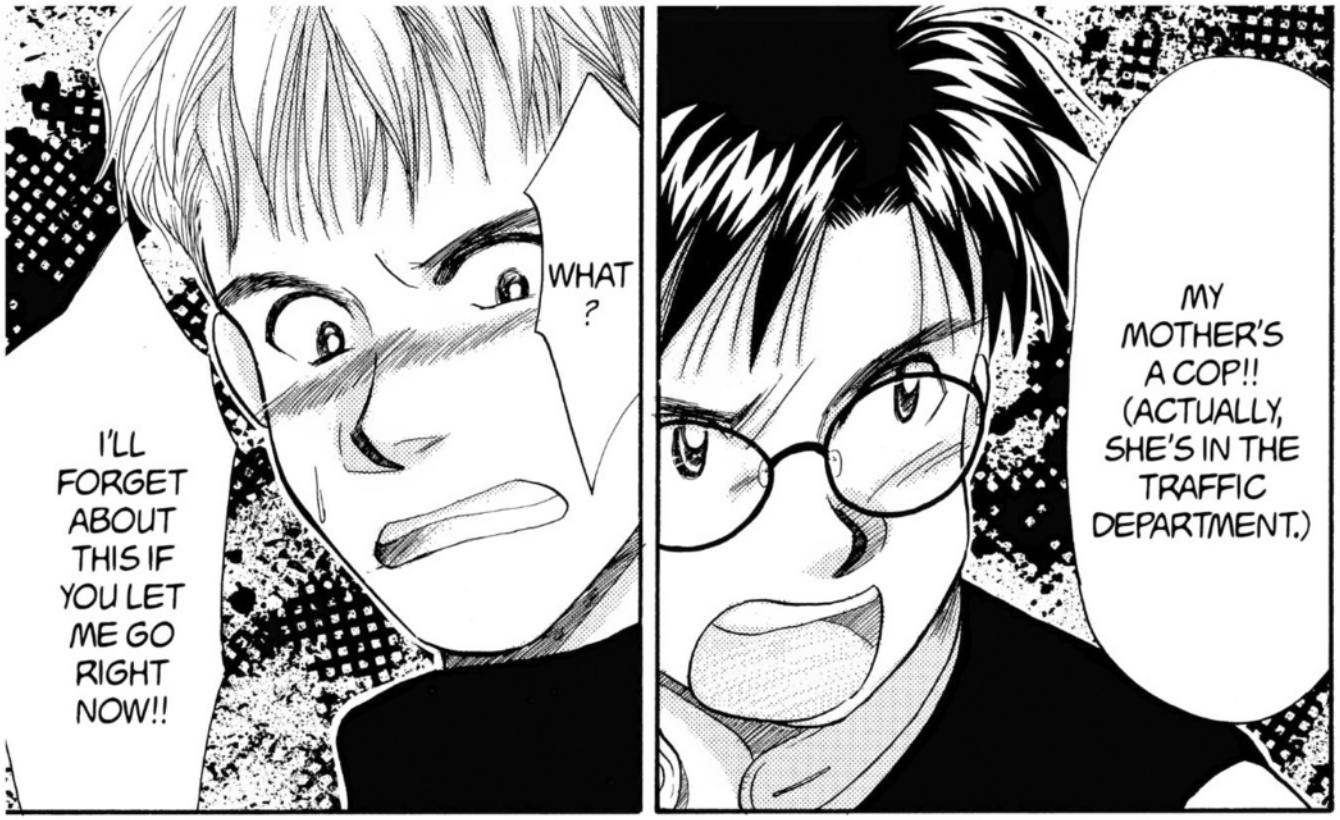

I'M GOING AFTER TAKUYA AND MINORU!!
THAT'S IT!
...
TMP
TMP
TMP
SHE'S THE FEMALE BANK ROBBER!!
TWITCH

LOOK...
YOU CAN'T SCARE ME WITH THAT TOY.
WHAT?

YOU KNOW WHAT THIS IS, DON'T YOU?
GET IN THE CAR.
17 AUSTRIA

HUH?
WHAP

YOU'RE NOT TOO BRIGHT, HUH?
TUK


I'LL FORGET ABOUT THIS IF YOU LET ME GO RIGHT NOW!!
WHAT ?
MY MOTHER'S A COP!! (ACTUALLY, SHE'S IN THE TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT.)

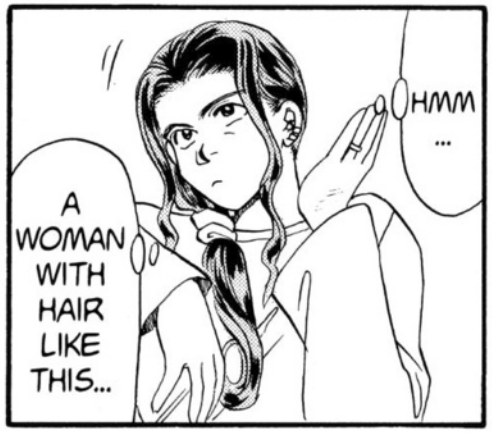
WH-WHAT IS THIS?

MIT-CHAN, FIND AKIRA!
VROOM
UNH...

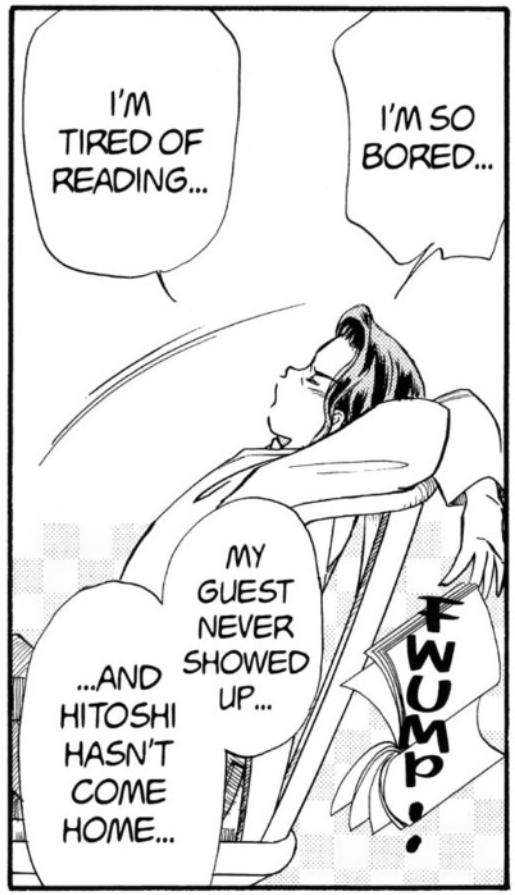
GET IN THERE !!
AARGH!
IT'S TOO LATE FOR THAT NOW!!
THWAK

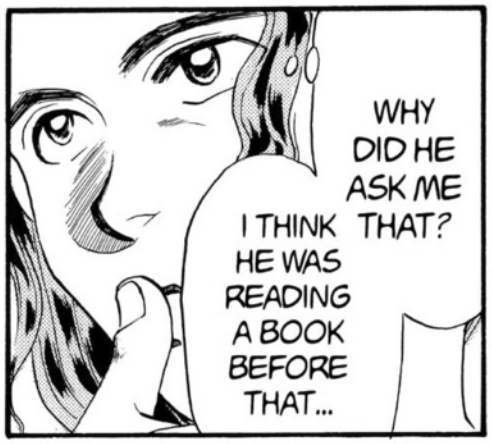
SIGH ...
No. 257
carhartt U.S.A.

...A MINUTE !!
WAIT ...

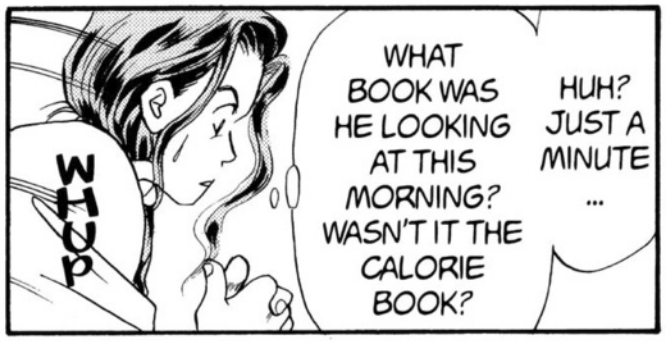

HMM ...
A WOMAN WITH HAIR LIKE THIS...

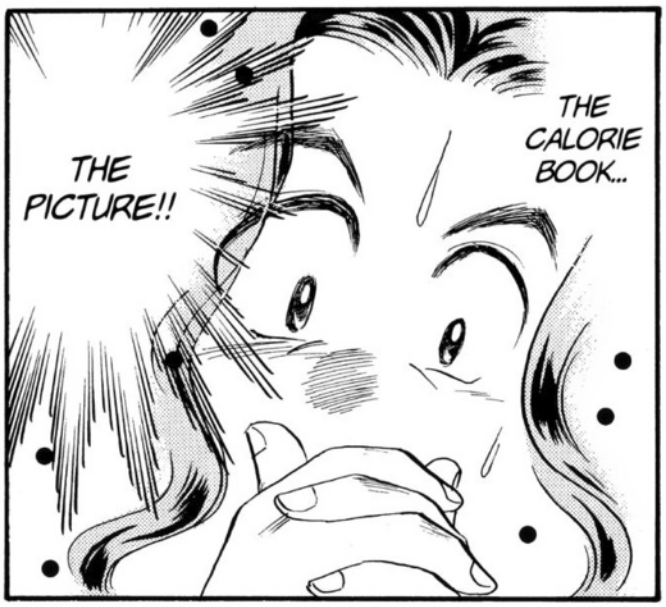
... HITOSHI ...


I'M TIRED OF READING...
I'M SO BORED...
MY GUEST NEVER SHOWED UP...
...AND HITOSHI HASN'T COME HOME...
FWUMP!


WHY DID HE ASK ME THAT?
I THINK HE WAS READING A BOOK BEFORE THAT...

IT'S NO USE!
WE'VE LOOKED EVERYWHERE, AND THERE'S NO I-CHOME.


WHUP
WHAT BOOK WAS HE LOOKING AT THIS MORNING? WASN'T IT THE CALORIE BOOK?
HUH? JUST A MINUTE ...


THE PICTURE!!
THE CALORIE BOOK...

OH, LOOK. THERE'S SOME-ONE THERE.

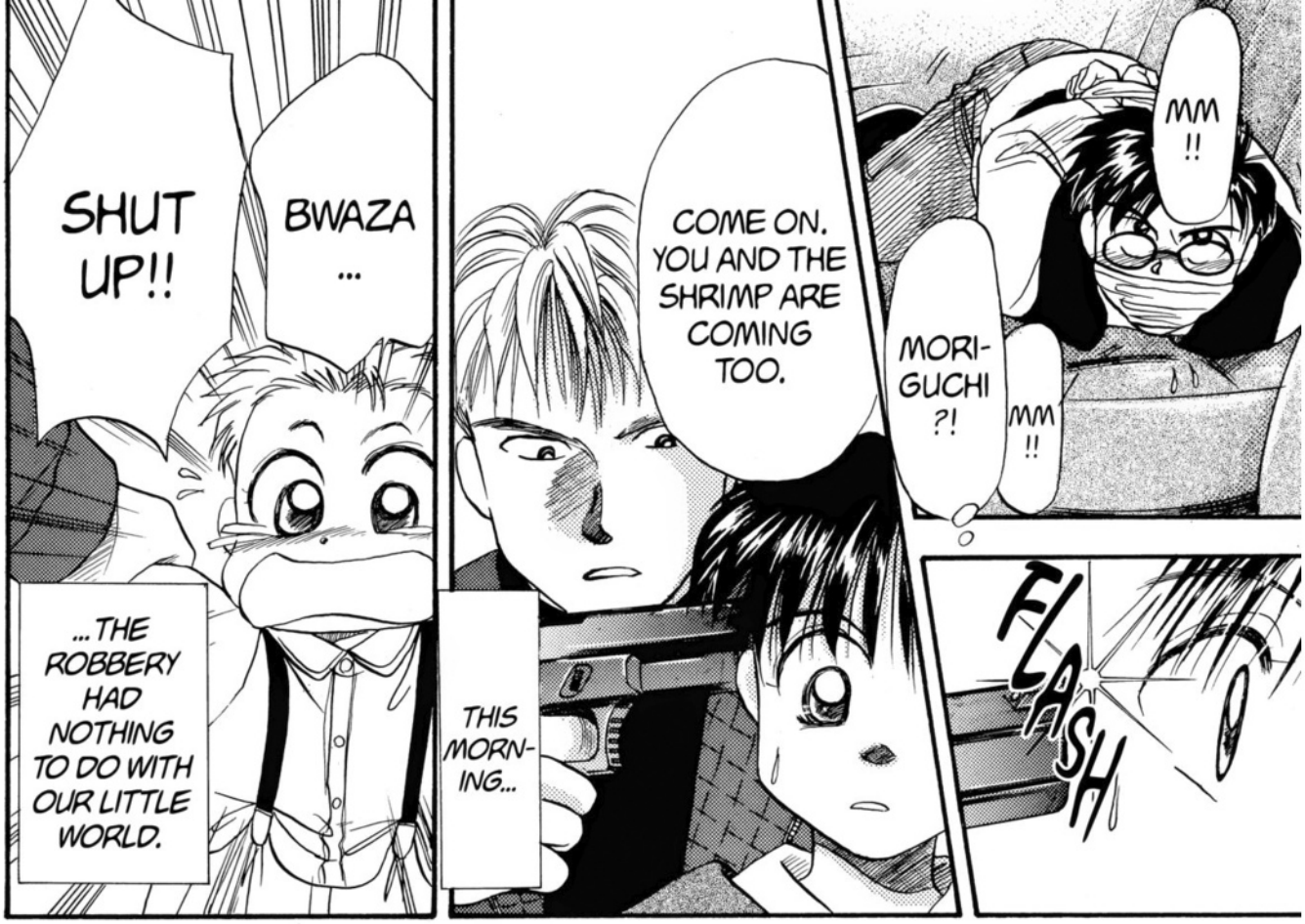
I WONDER WHY WE CAN'T FIND ANY PUBLIC PHONES...
CHERRY, RANKO, YOU'RE LOOKING SLOPPY. YOUR BREEDING IS SHOWING.
WE'LL HAVE TO ASK SOMEONE.
MAMA, YOUR KIMONO'S FLAPPING OPEN.
HUFF
HUFF
FUUP
FUUP

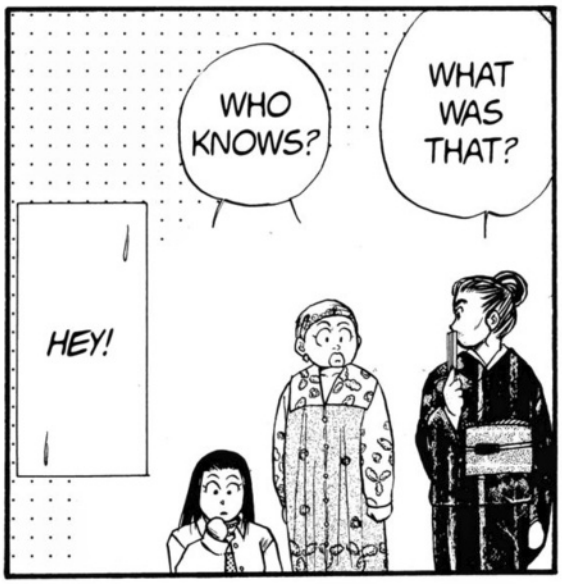
YOU'RE RIGHT.
OH, DEAR.

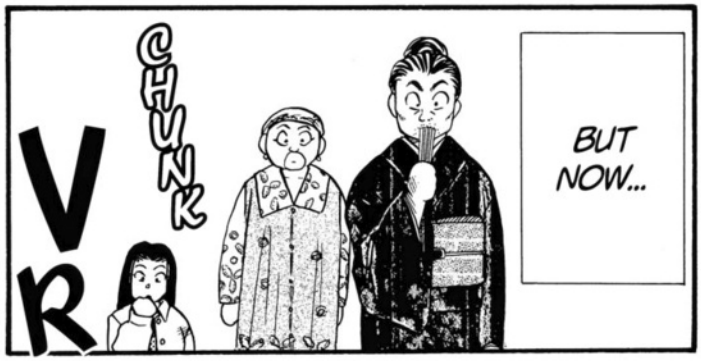
DID YOU GET THE HANDKER-CHIEF?
NEVER MIND. JUST GET IN!!

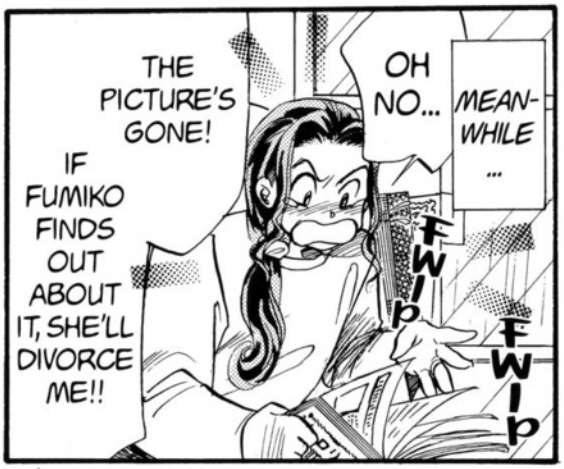
OH, YUSAKU...
AKIRA ...
SKREEK
CHUNK
GET IN!!
HUH? OKAY.

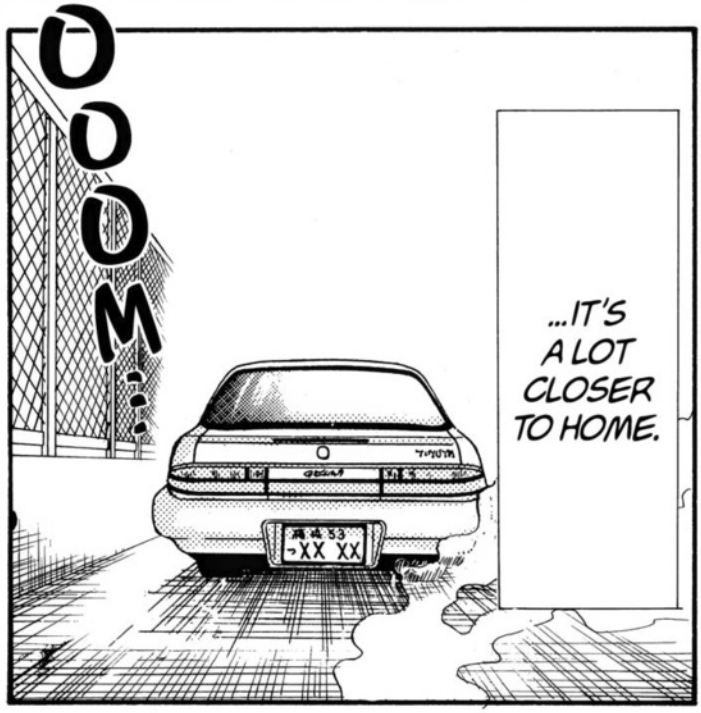
WHAT A COINCI-DENCE.
HEY, THAT BOY IN THE CAP. ISN'T THAT THE RUDE BOY WE MET BY THE STATION?
THAT'S RIGHT. I'M SORRY. I GUESS I GOT THE WRONG GUY.
THEN YOU HAVE NO BUSINESS WITH US, RIGHT?











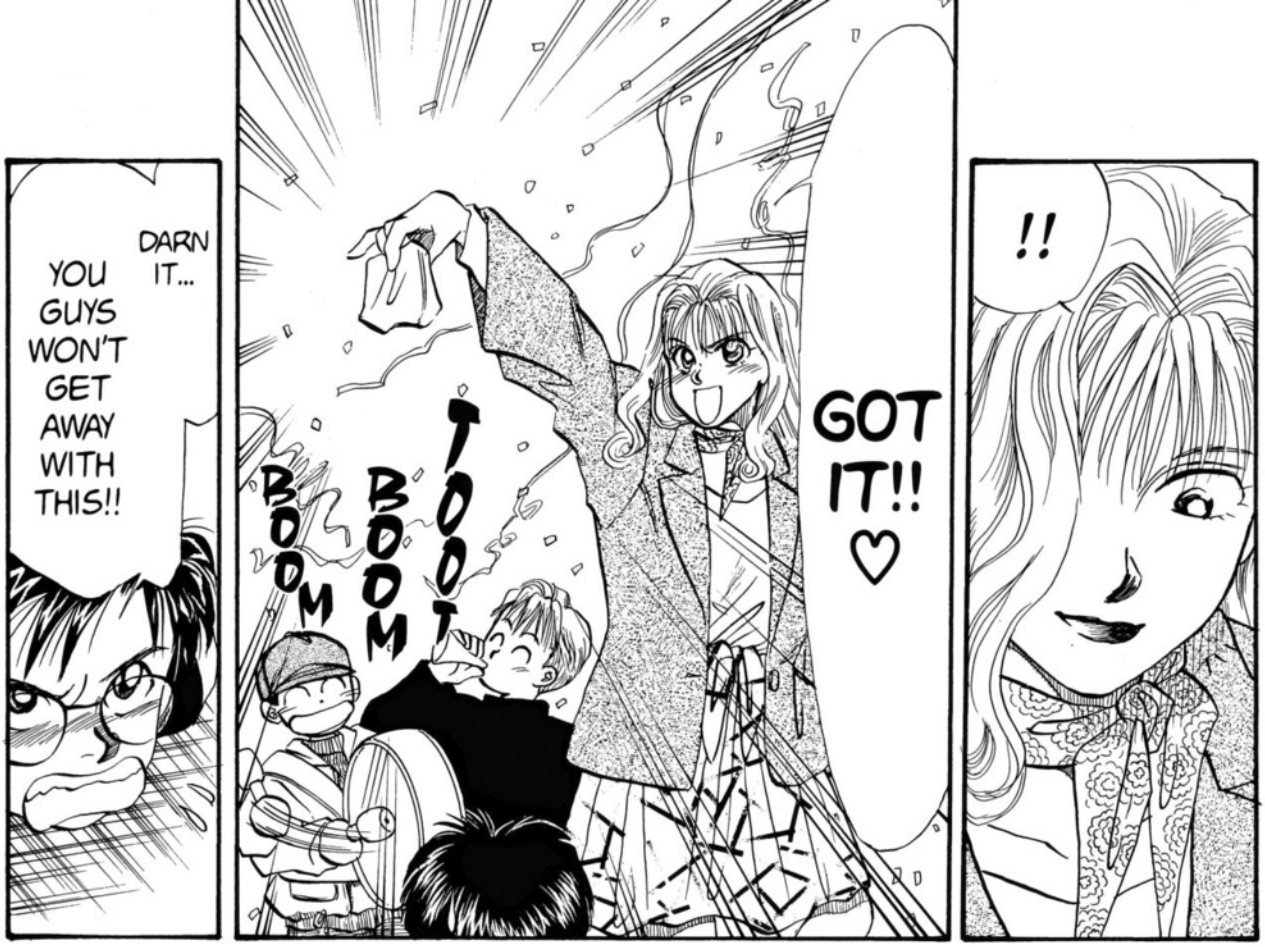
Chapter 45 / The End

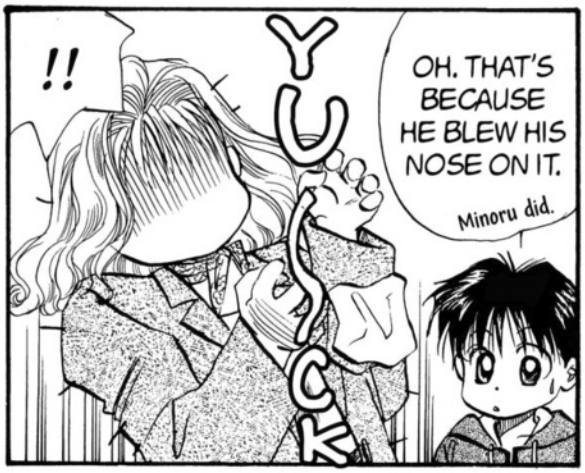
Chapter 46

NOW HAND OVER THAT HANDKERCHIEF NICE AND PEACEFULLY.

IF YOU GIVE US THE HANDKERCHIEF WITHOUT A STRUGGLE, WE'LL LET YOU GO.
DON'T BE AFRAID.
NOW WHERE IS IT?

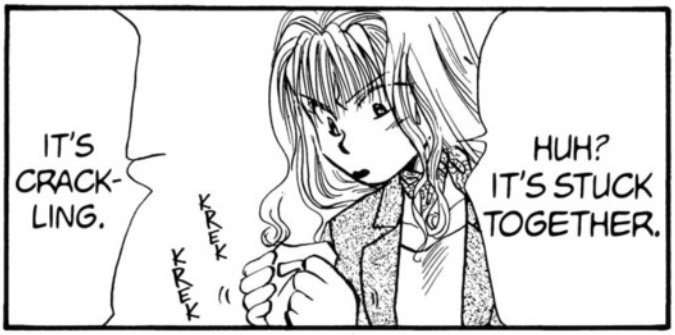
THIS SAFE IS VERY STRONG, YOU SEE...
...AND THE SECRET CODE IS THE FASTEST WAY TO OPEN IT.
BUT KOTA WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO KNEW THE CODE, AND HE GOT ARRESTED.

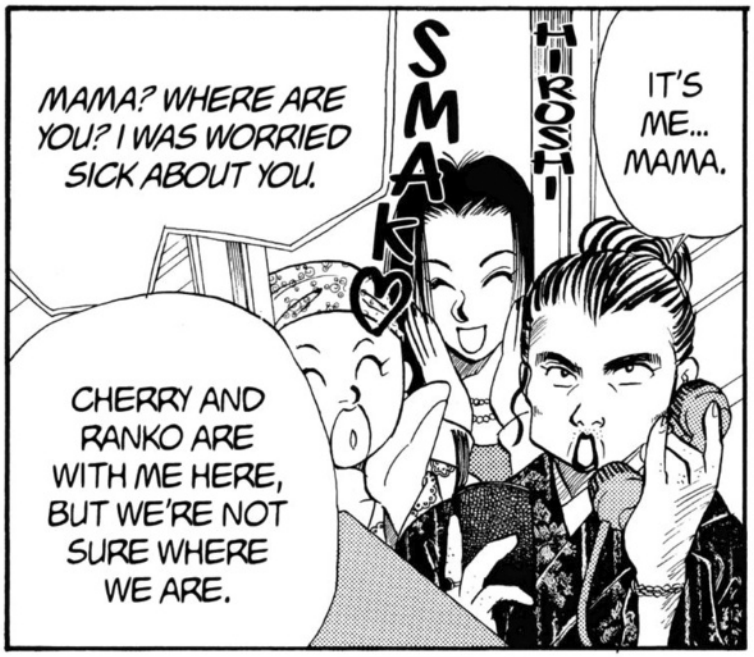

!!
GOT IT!! ♡
TOOT
BOOM
BOOM
DARN IT...
YOU GUYS WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS!!


!!
YUCK
OH. THAT'S BECAUSE HE BLEW HIS NOSE ON IT.
Minoru did.

MORI-GUCHI!
TOMp
UGH!!
YOU'RE A MOUTHY BRAT, AREN'T YOU?
OH!!

WHO, ME?
AKIRA, GO WASH IT OUT.
PLEASE ...
I...I CAN'T OPEN IT. IT'S TOO GROSS.


IT'S CRACK-LING.
KREK
KREK
HUH? IT'S STUCK TOGETHER.

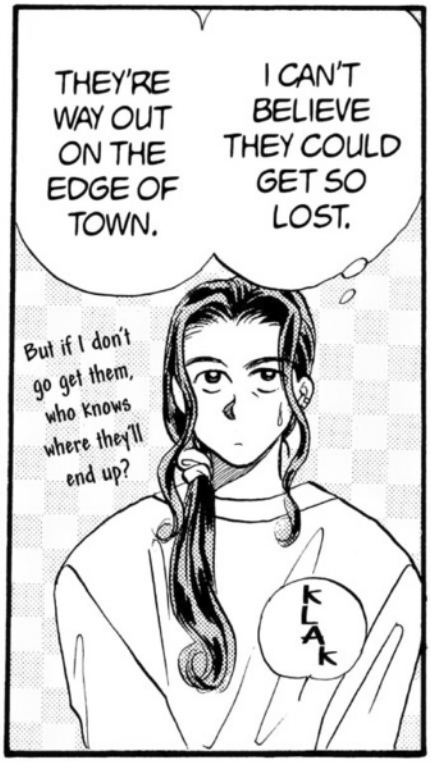

MAMA? WHERE ARE YOU? I WAS WORRIED SICK ABOUT YOU.
SMAK
HIROSHI
IT'S ME... MAMA.
CHERRY AND RANKO ARE WITH ME HERE, BUT WE'RE NOT SURE WHERE WE ARE.

HELLO, MORIGUCHI RESIDENCE ...

PLEASE HURRY!
JUST WAIT THERE. I'LL COME AND GET YOU.
OH, DEAR. YOU'VE GONE IN THE COMPLETE OPPOSITE DIRECTION.

WE'RE NEXT TO A RUN-DOWN BUILDING.
IS IT, BY ANY CHANCE, A FIVE-STORY BUILDING SUR-ROUNDED BY A WALL?
THAT'S RIGHT.

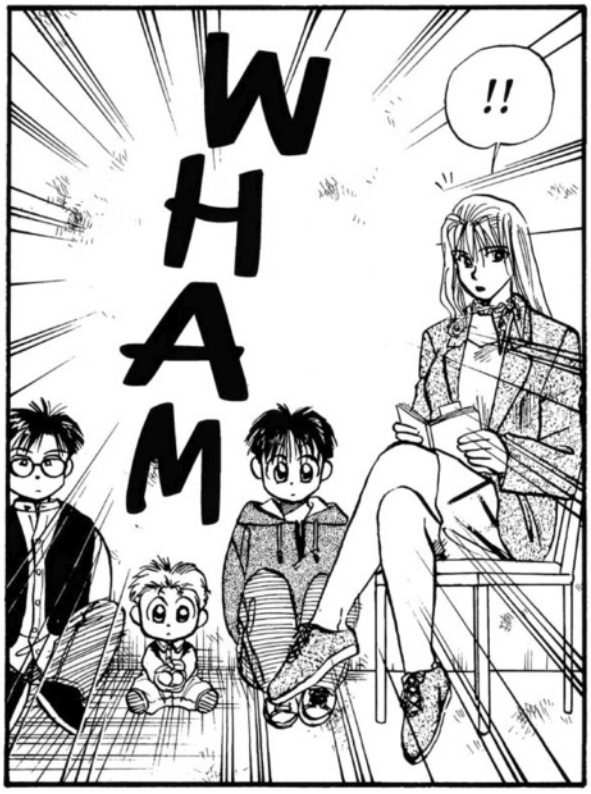
OH!


THEY'RE WAY OUT ON THE EDGE OF TOWN.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY COULD GET SO LOST.
But if I don't go get them, who knows where they'll end up?
KLAK

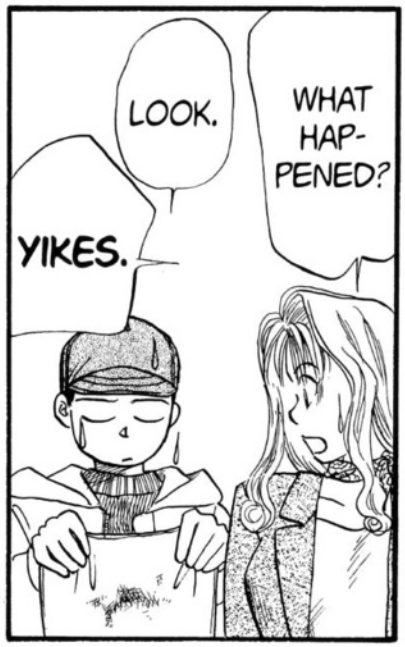
L-LOOKS LIKE...HE USED A WATER-BASED MARKER!
HA HA HA HA ...
THE CODE! IT'S GONE!!

HEY! WHAT IS IT, AKIRA?
YUSAKU... THIS...THIS...
SHAKE
SHAKE

HEY, YOU TWO!! DID YOU SEE WHAT WAS ON THAT HANDKER-CHIEF?!
WH-WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU'RE SO PALE!


WHAM
!!

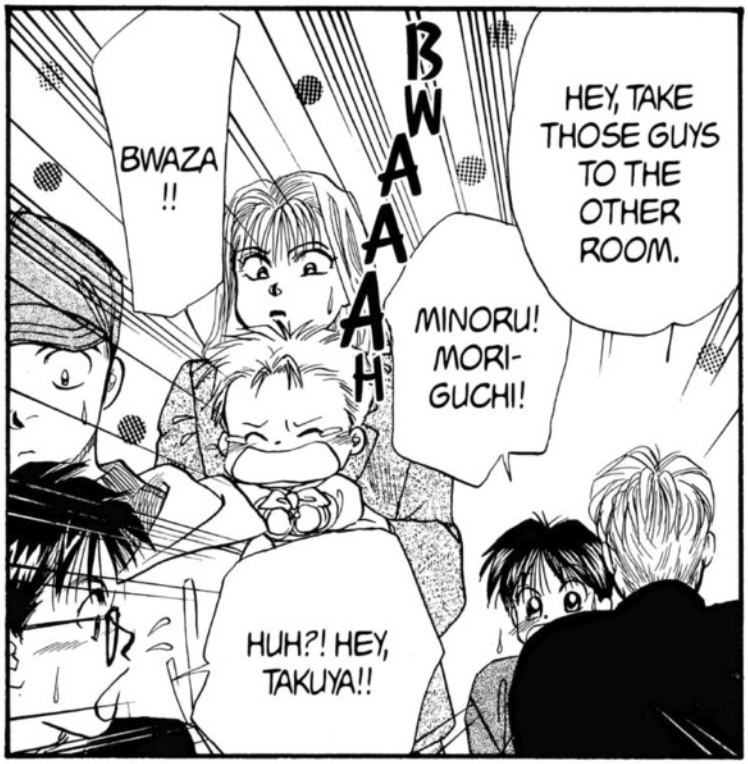
SO YOU DID SEE IT!
YOU DID SAY THERE WAS SOMETHING WRITTEN ON IT, DIDN'T YOU?
WHAT? YOU MEAN THOSE NUM-BERS?


WHAT HAP-PENED?
LOOK.
YIKES.

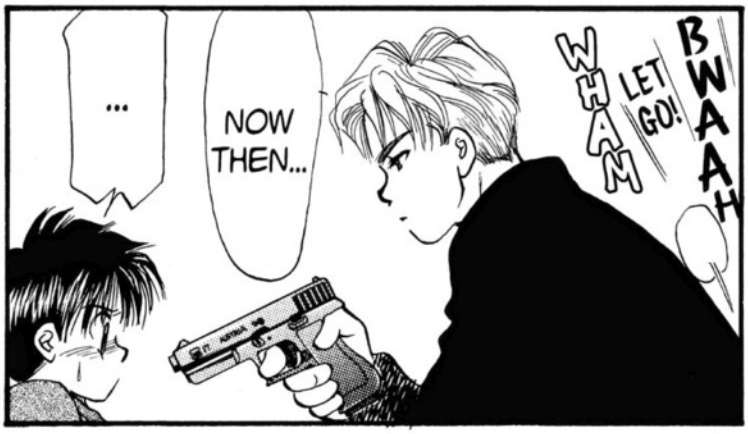
THUP
THEN I'LL...
...HELP YOU REMEMBER.

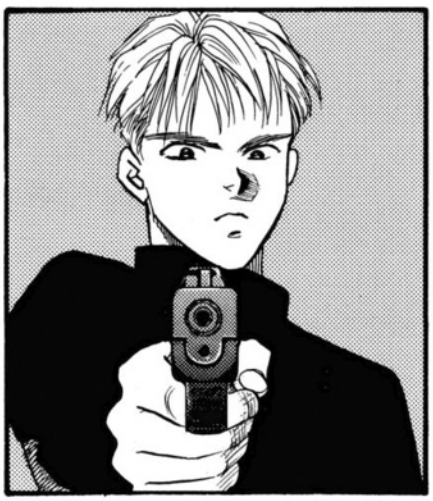
I DID, BUT ONLY FOR A SECOND.
I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT WAS WRITTEN ON IT.
WHAT?

TO START OFF...
...WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME EVERY-THING YOU REMEM-BER?


BWAAAH
BWAZA !!
HEY, TAKE THOSE GUYS TO THE OTHER ROOM.
MINORU! MORI-GUCHI!
HUH?! HEY, TAKUYA!!

KLAK
KLAK
KLAK


BWAAH
LET GO!
WHAM
NOW THEN...
...



CHAK

HUH ?!

THAT'S IT.
TELL ME.

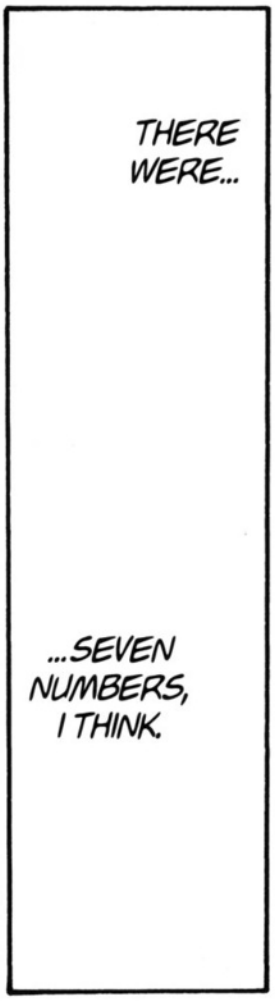
HUH?

BLAM

KRAK
!!

L-LEFT... 2...2...
RIGHT... 0...3...
AH ...
THEN, UM...

HEY, YOU!
THAT WAS A GUNSHOT.
MIT-CHAN ...
WHAT ?
BWAZA!!


THERE WERE...
...SEVEN NUMBERS, I THINK.

WELL ?
WHAT ABOUT THE REST?

THE REST ...
...WERE...

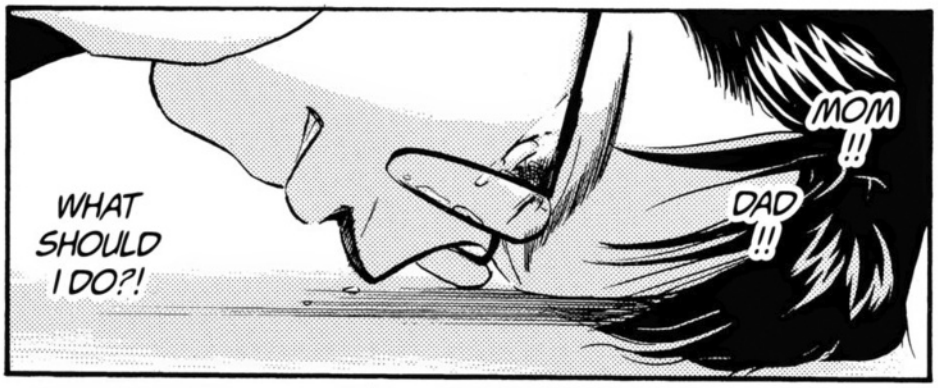
...I'LL KILL YOU ALL!!

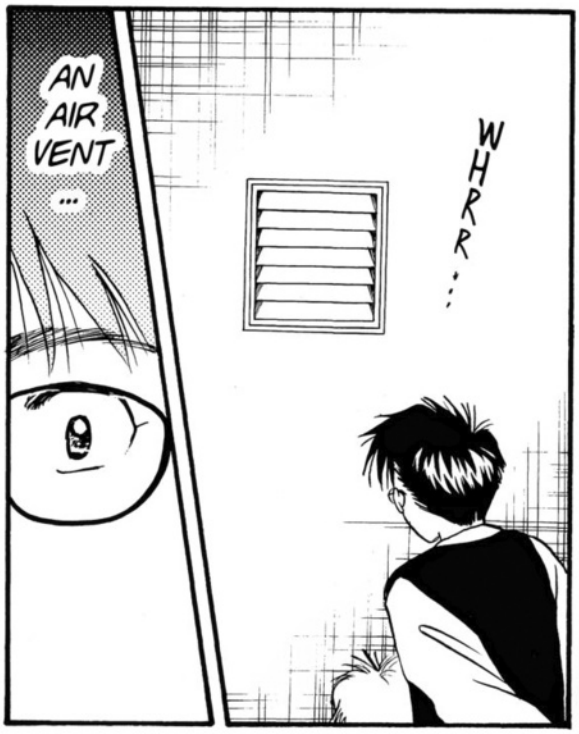
...
IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO MY FRIEND...

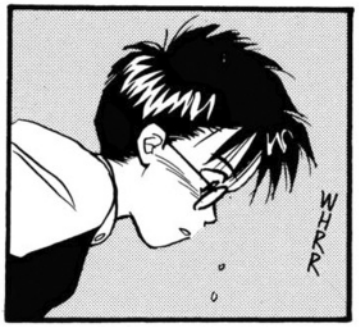
I WON'T LET YOU GET AWAY WITH THIS!!
AH! AGAIN!
BLAM
SOLSB

Author's Note: Part 2

As for the story of the soup in *Baby and Me* volume 8, depending on the dictionary you use, it seems there are two ways of writing *omiotsuke*. Sorry for blaming you, teachers. Now let's all put this behind us. Please.



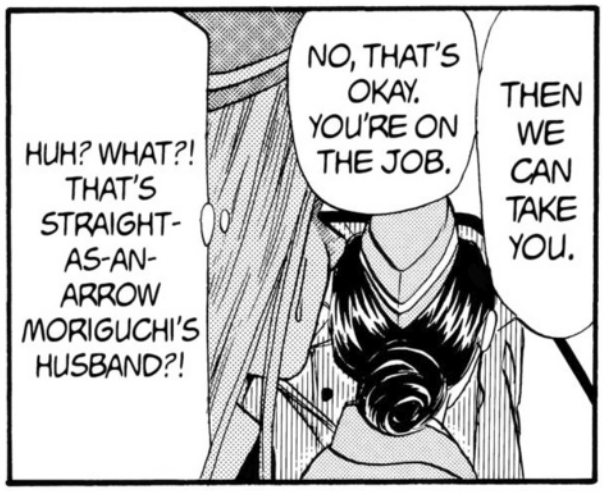


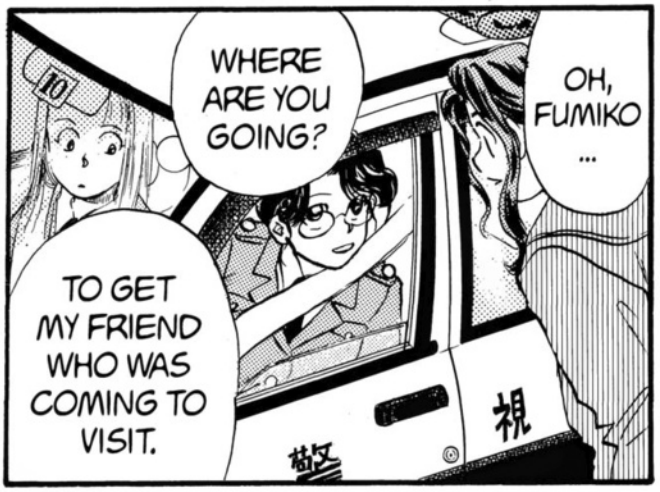


DEAR ...

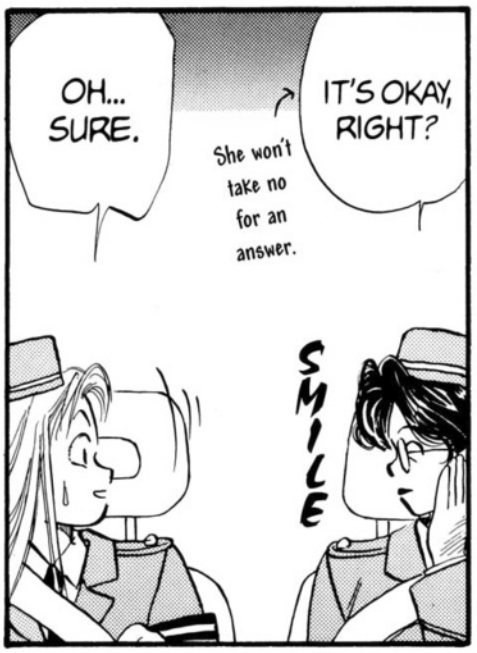
OH...
PULL OVER.
HUH?

VROOM...


HUH? WHAT?! THAT'S STRAIGHT-AS-AN-ARROW MORIGUCHI'S HUSBAND?!
NO, THAT'S OKAY. YOU'RE ON THE JOB.
THEN WE CAN TAKE YOU.


WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
OH, FUMIKO ...
TO GET MY FRIEND WHO WAS COMING TO VISIT.

THOSE COOKIES WERE FOR HIM.
THESE COOKIES ARE PRETTY GOOD.
MEANWHILE, THE TRANSVESTITES...
I'M SO HUNGRY.
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH

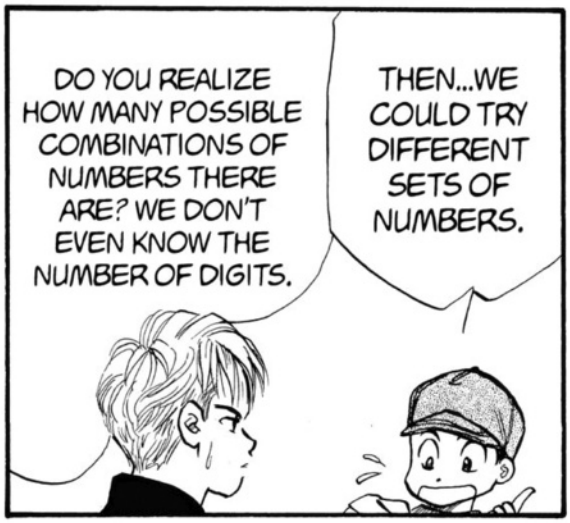

OH... SURE.
IT'S OKAY, RIGHT?
She won't take no for an answer.
SMILE

I-I ONLY CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF IT.
B-BUT ...
DO YOU RE-MEM-BER NOW?
WELL?
...YOUR FRIEND AND THAT SHRIMP ARE GONNA GET IT.
IF YOU DON'T REMEM-BER...
THINK, TAKUYA, THINK!
I-I DON'T KNOW ...
YUSAKU, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
HEY!
WHAM
CHAK

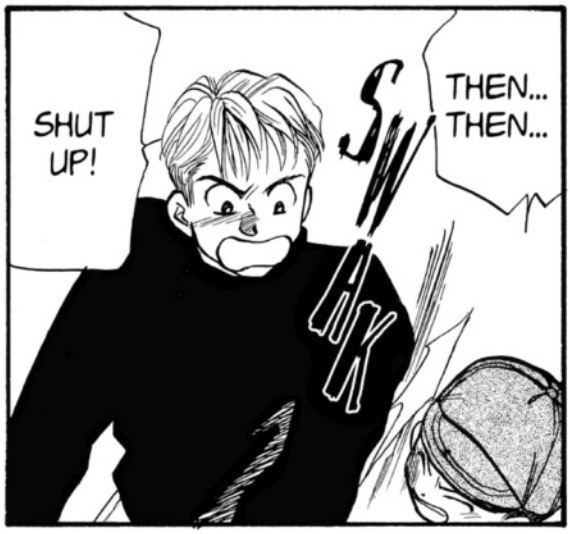
YOU'RE NOT CHICKENING OUT, ARE YOU?
WE ALL AGREED WE'D KILL THEM, DIDN'T WE?

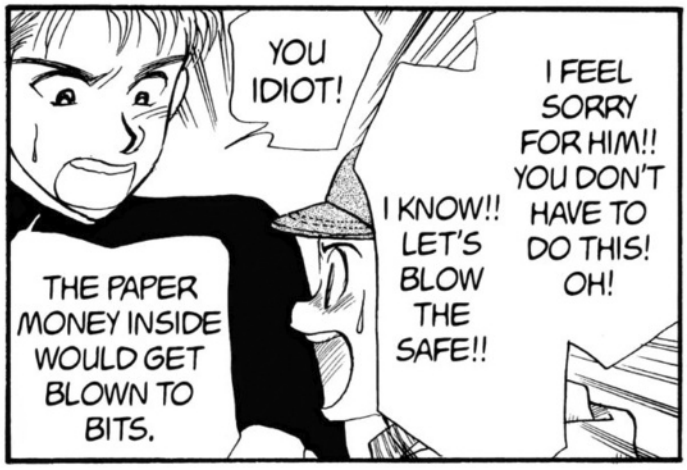
BUT WHAT IF HE REALLY CAN'T RE-MEM-BER?
ANYTHING'S POSSIBLE... WITH THE RIGHT PERSUA-SION.

I'M HELPING THE BOY REMEMBER.

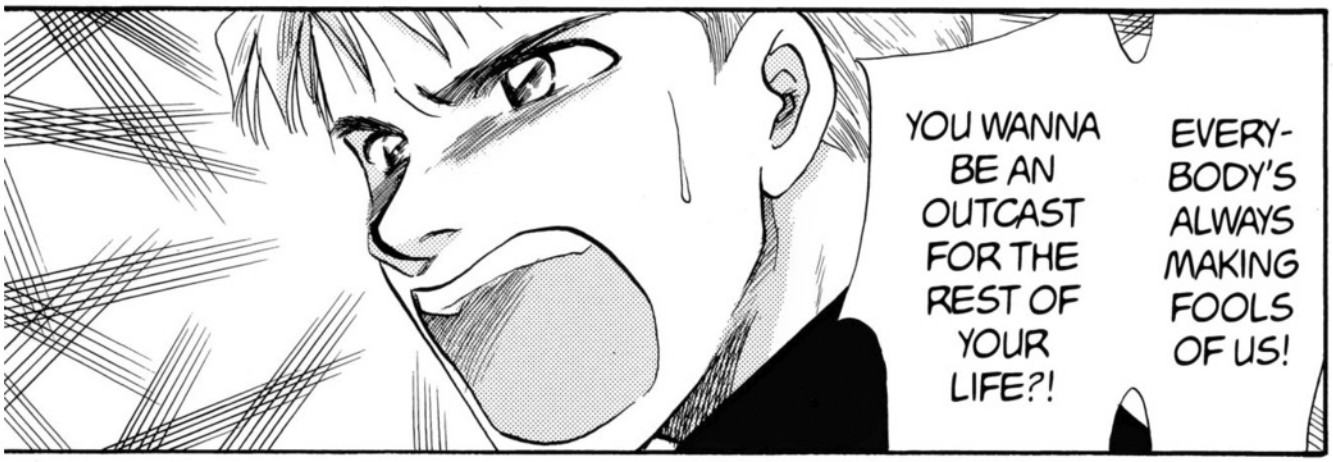

DO YOU REALIZE HOW MANY POSSIBLE COMBINATIONS OF NUMBERS THERE ARE? WE DON'T EVEN KNOW THE NUMBER OF DIGITS.
THEN...WE COULD TRY DIFFERENT SETS OF NUMBERS.

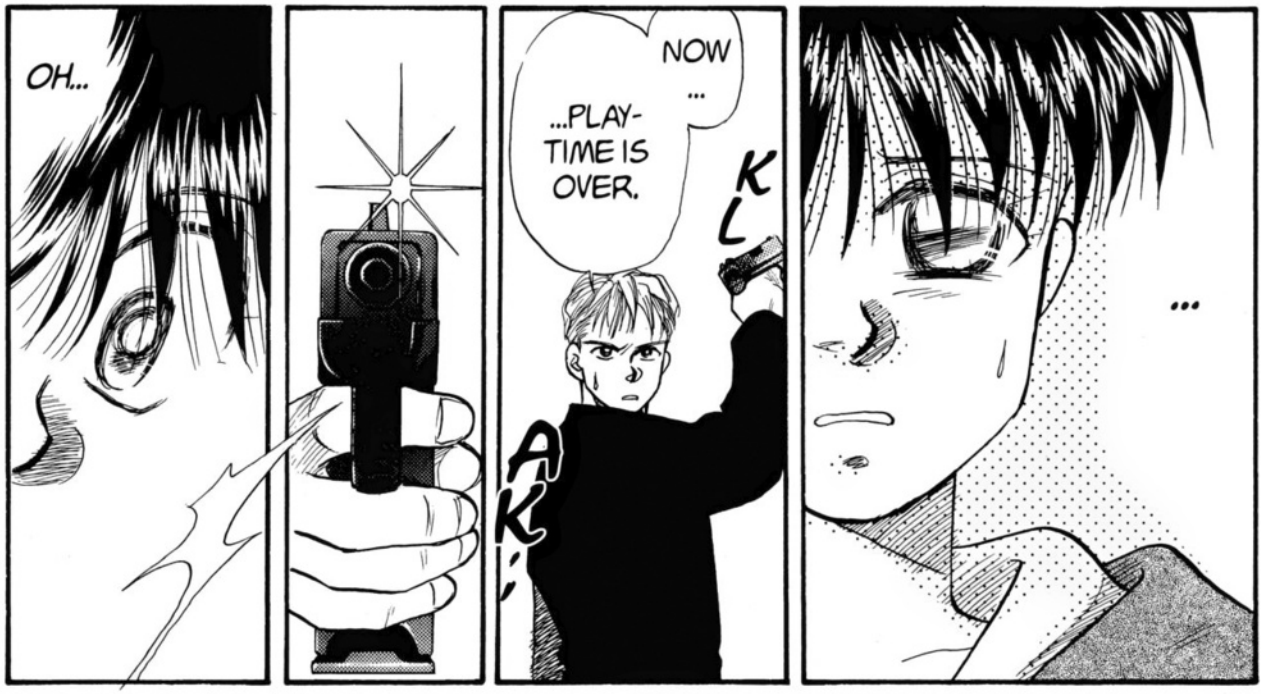
UM...
NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU THREATEN HIM, HE CAN'T REMEMBER SOMETHING THAT HE DOESN'T KNOW.
HUH?


SHUT UP!
SWAK
THEN... THEN...


YOU IDIOT!
I FEEL SORRY FOR HIM!! YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS! OH!
I KNOW!! LET'S BLOW THE SAFE!!
THE PAPER MONEY INSIDE WOULD GET BLOWN TO BITS.

DO YOU WANNA KEEP LIVING LIKE THIS FOREVER?!
WE'RE GONNA LEAVE THE COUNTRY AND START A NEW LIFE, RIGHT?
YUSAKU...
WE NEED THAT MONEY!!


YOU WANNA BE AN OUTCAST FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE?!
EVERY-BODY'S ALWAYS MAKING FOOLS OF US!


OH...
NOW ...
...PLAY-TIME IS OVER.
KL
AK!
...

YOU'D BETTER NOT BE MESSING WITH ME.
YOU SURE?
THAT'S WHAT IT WAS.
5963194.
I THINK THAT WAS IT.

HUH?
THAT'S IT?

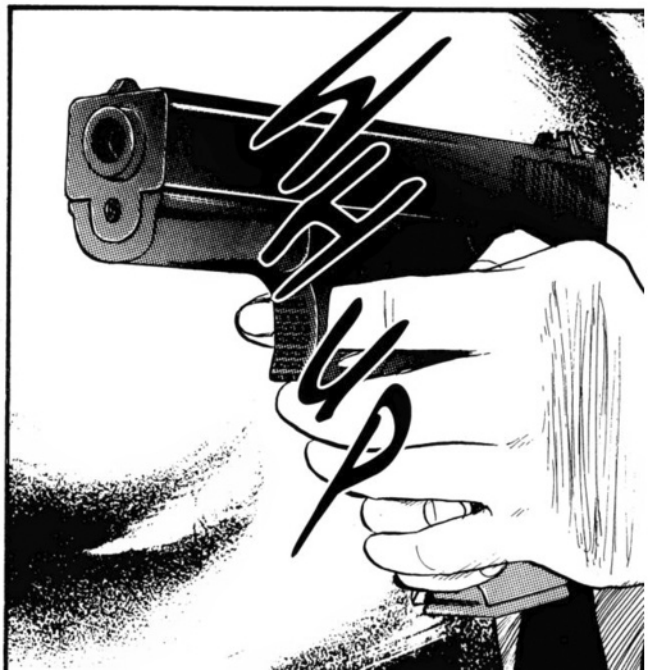
5963194!!

GULP!

YUSAKU !!

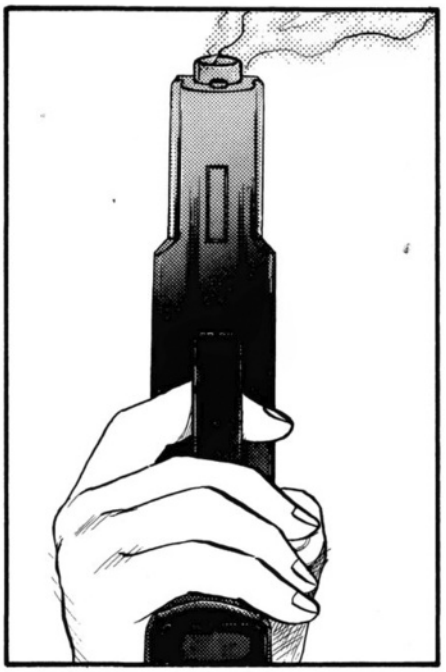
IT JUST WASN'T YOUR LUCKY DAY, THAT'S ALL.
HUH?

HEH...
GOOD JOB. YOU'RE SMARTER THAN AKIRA.

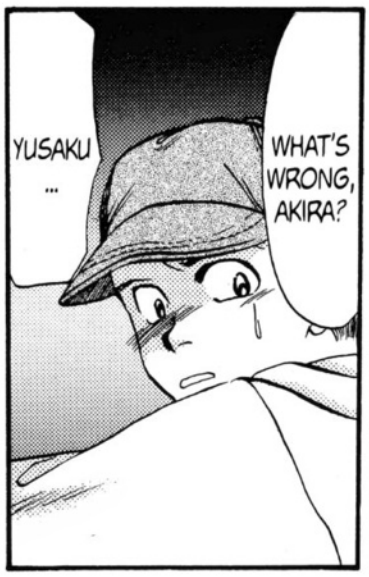

KHHUP

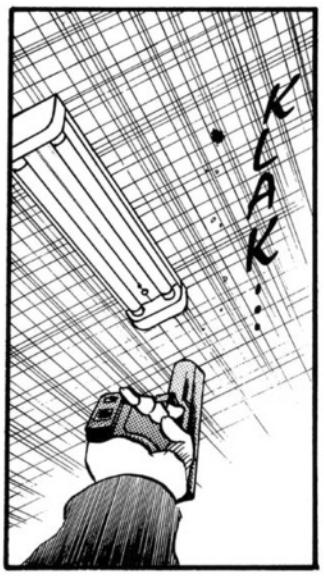
...?

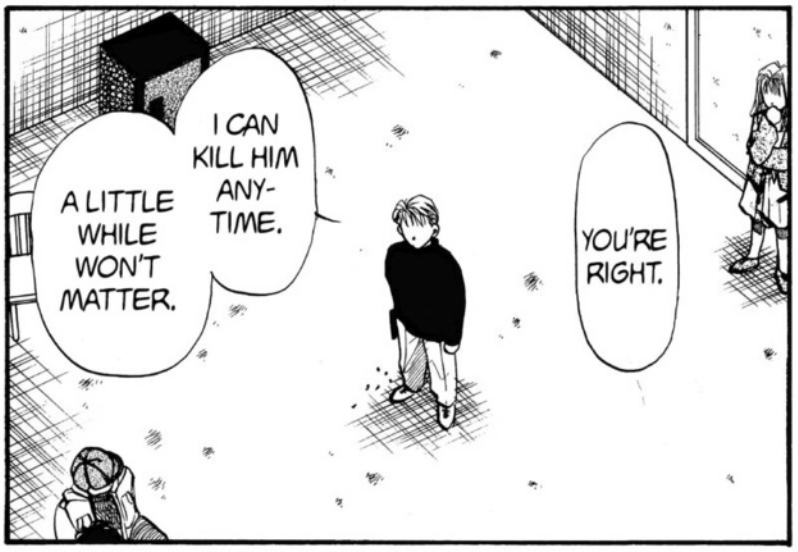
HUH?



DID YOU REALLY THINK I'D SHOOT HIM NOW?

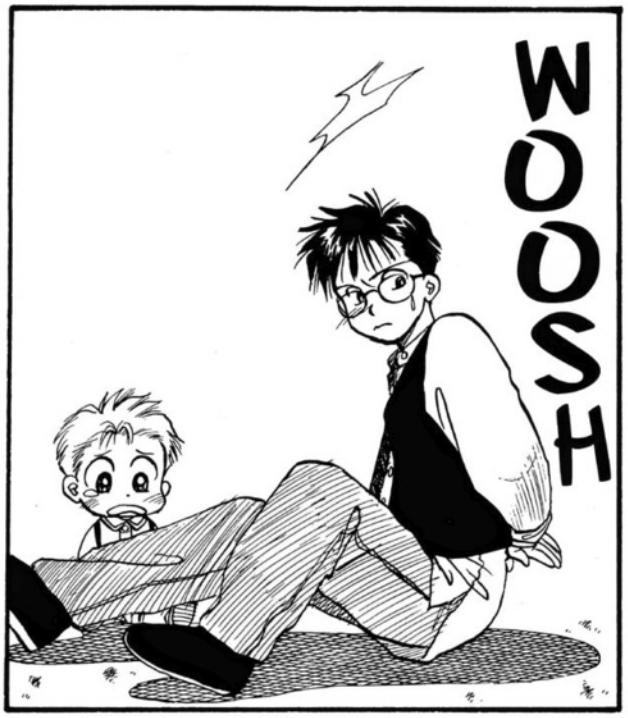

YUSAKU ...
WHAT'S WRONG, AKIRA?

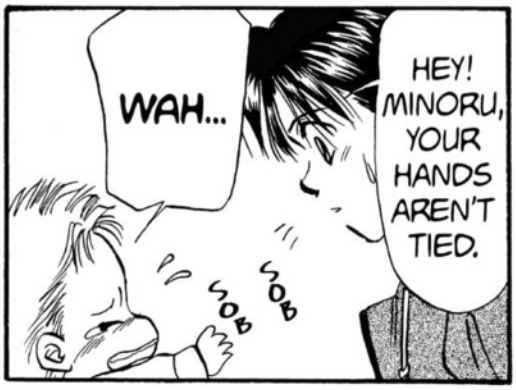

KLAK...


A LITTLE WHILE WON'T MATTER.
I CAN KILL HIM ANY-TIME.
YOU'RE RIGHT.

...TO KILL HIM YET.
NO REASON ...

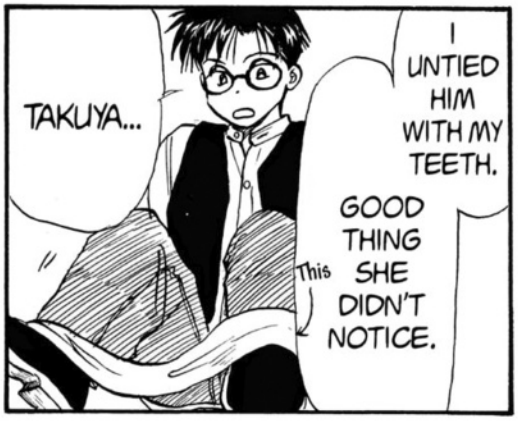
TAKUYA!
BWAZA!
BUMP..


WOOSH


WAH...
HEY! MINORU, YOUR HANDS AREN'T TIED.
SOB
SOB

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, TAKUYA?
Y-YEAH.
WHAM
CHAK
AH! BWAZA!

YOU'RE GOOD BOYS...
...SO KEEP QUIET, OKAY?

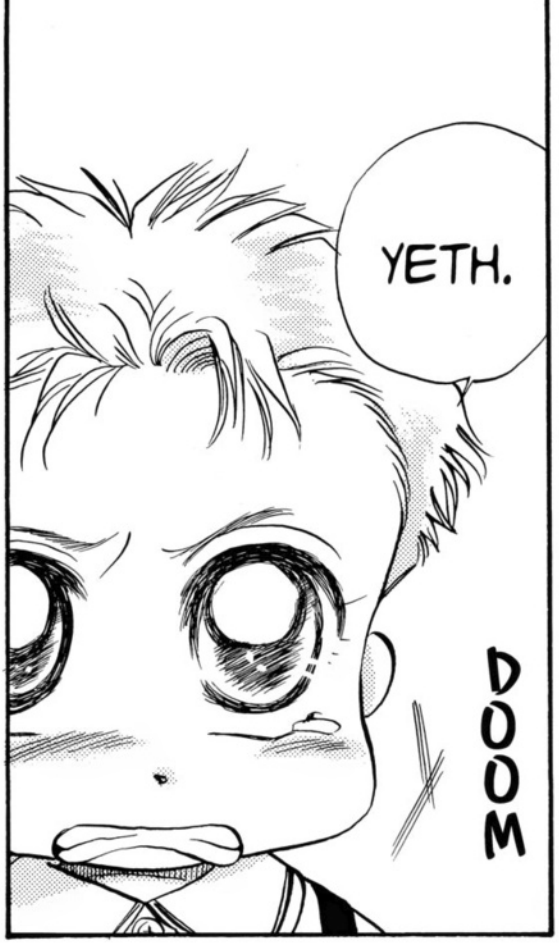

TAKUYA...
I UNTIED HIM WITH MY TEETH.
GOOD THING SHE DIDN'T NOTICE.
This

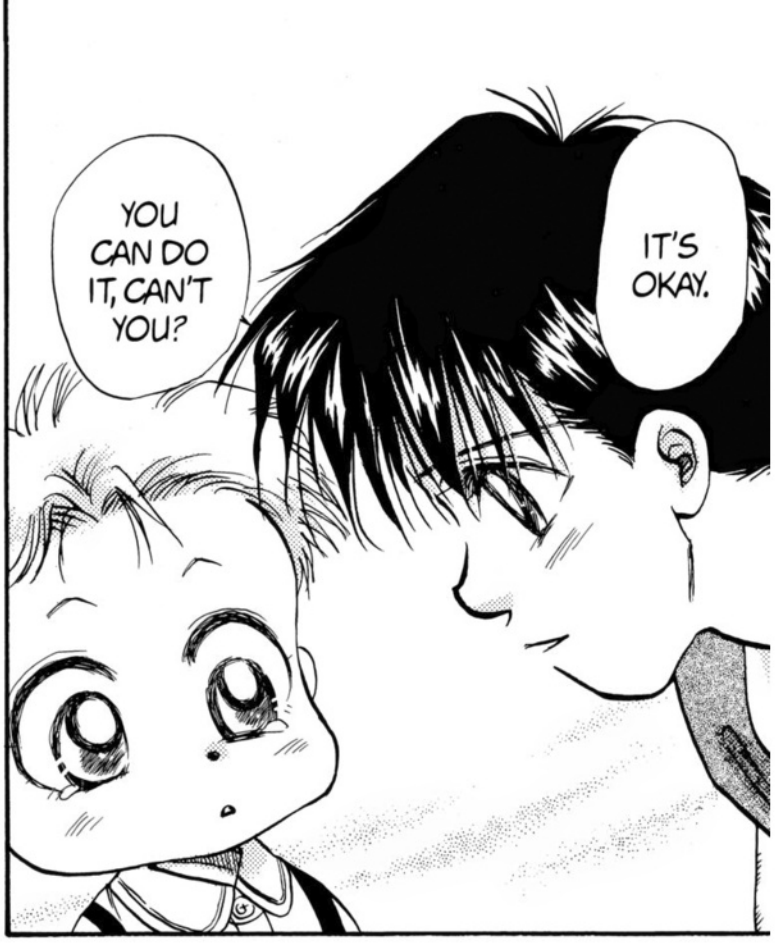
HE'LL HAVE TO GO FOR HELP.
M-MINORU?
!!
MINORU COULD DO IT.

WHAT? BUT IT'S TOO SMALL.
WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET OUT THROUGH THAT VENT.

MINO-RU...
UH...

...


YETH.
DOOM


YOU CAN DO IT, CAN'T YOU?
IT'S OKAY.

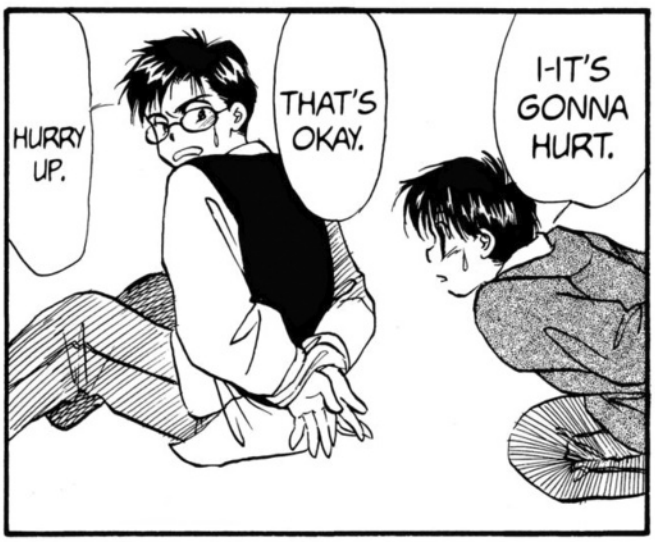
HUH?
I NEED SOME BLOOD. YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO WRITE WITH, DO YOU?

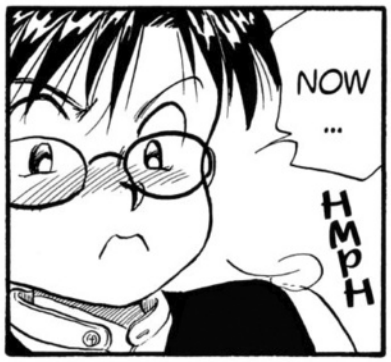
NOW BITE MY FINGER ...

YEAH. JUST A MINUTE, IT'S IN MY BACK POCKET.
YOU HAVE THAT PICTURE I GAVE YOU, RIGHT?

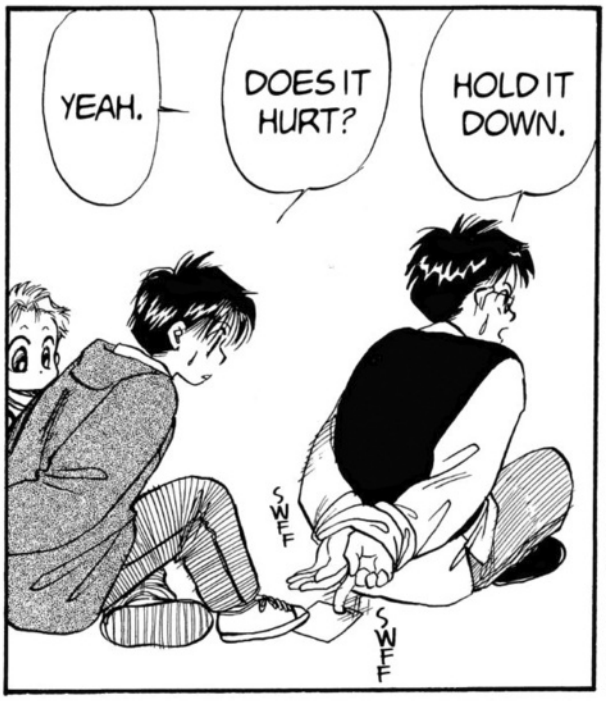
OUCH ...
Y-YES.
IS IT BLEEDING?

SCARY.
CHONK


HURRY UP.
THAT'S OKAY.
I-IT'S GONNA HURT.


NOW ...
HMPH

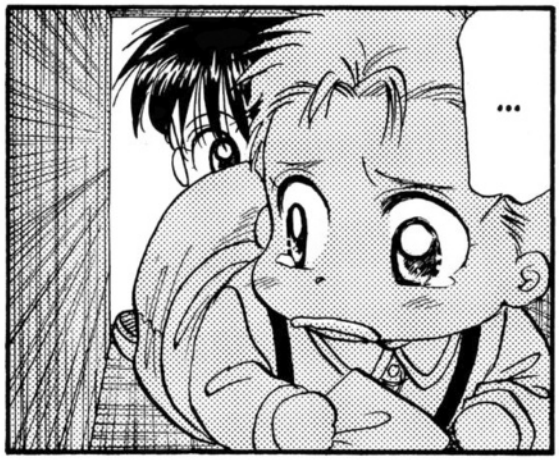
CHOMP


YEAH.
DOES IT HURT?
HOLD IT DOWN.
SWFF
SWFF

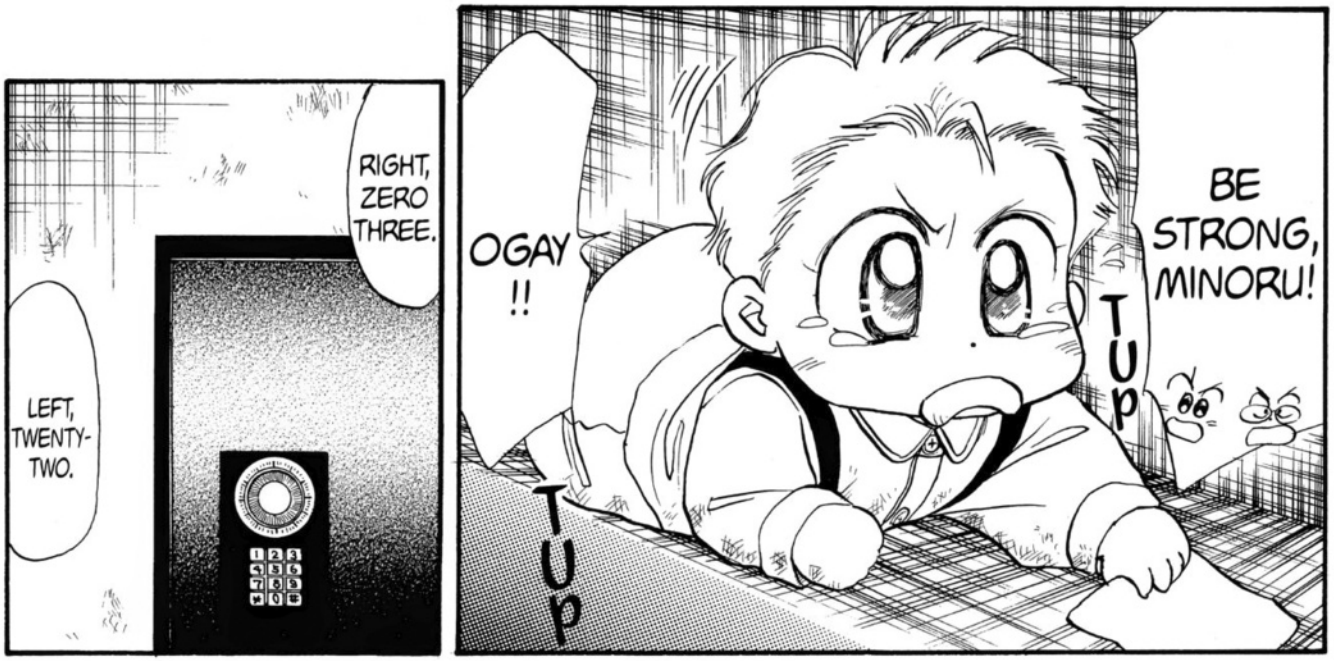
TUP

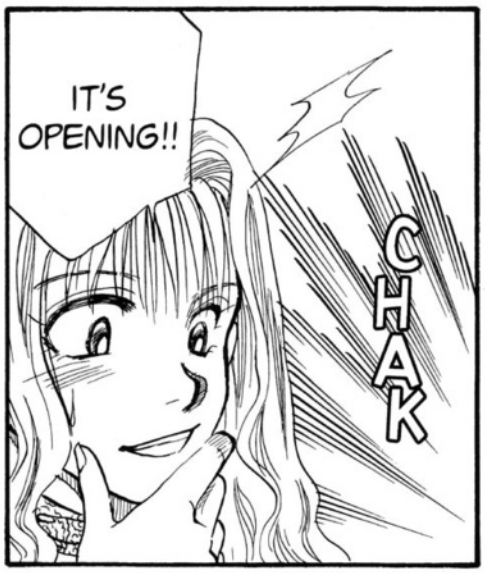
OGAY.
MINORU, DO WHAT I TOLD YOU.
PKRUFF
UGH... OUCH.

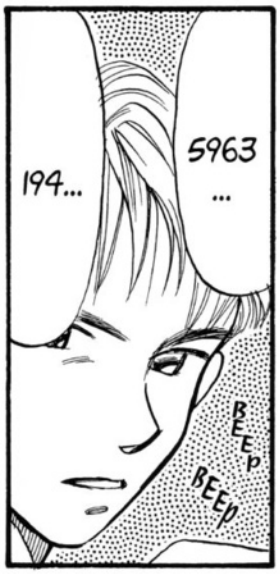
UNGH...
GEEZ, MORIGUCHI!
POP


...

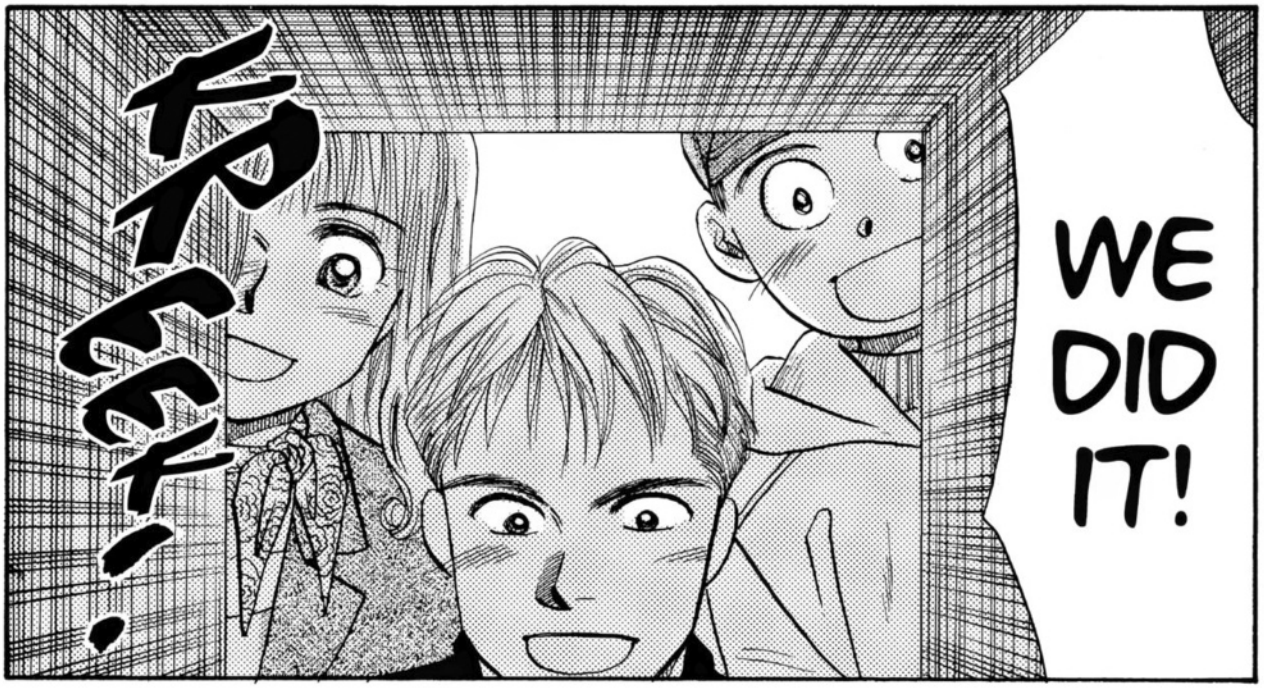
MINORU, GRAB HOLD OF ME.
KOFF
KOFF
OGAY.


RIGHT, ZERO THREE.
LEFT, TWENTY-TWO.
OGAY !!
TUP
TUP
BE STRONG, MINORU!

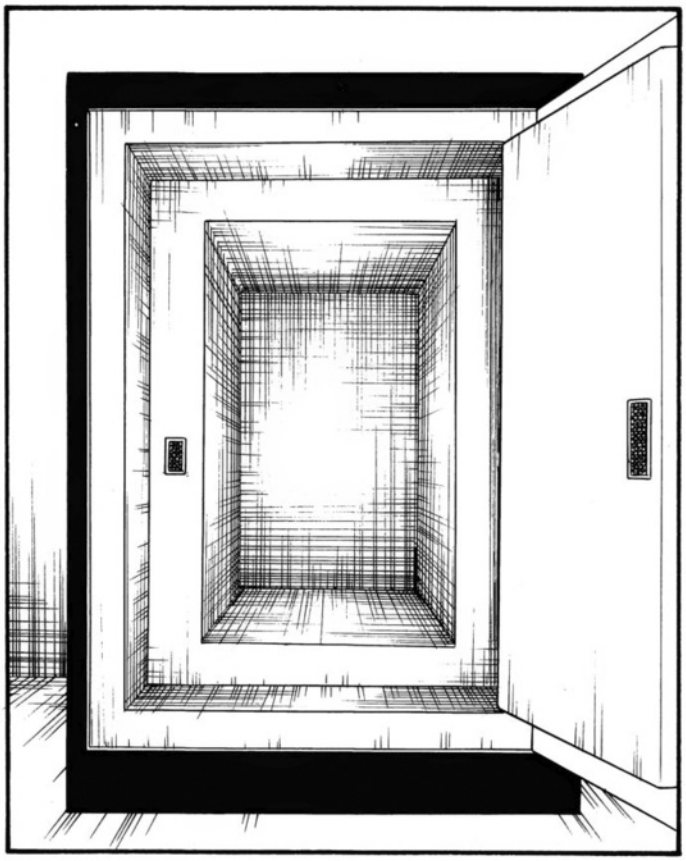

IT'S OPENING!!
CHAK

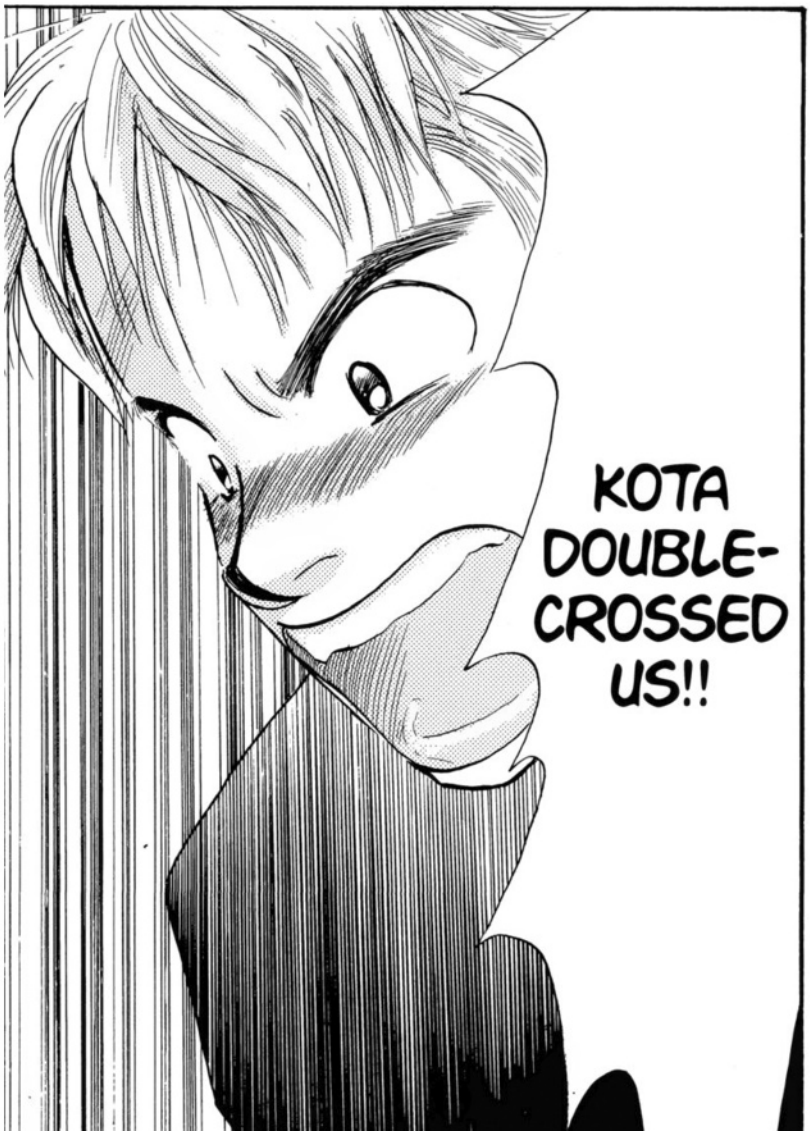

194...
5963 ...
BEEP BEEP

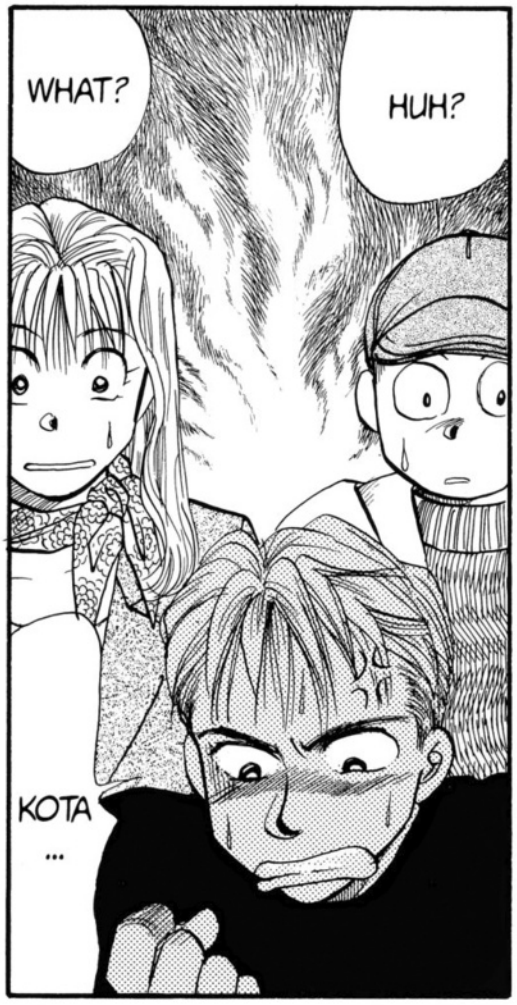
NO, IT PROBABLY MEANS ZERO THREE TIMES.
ZERO AND THREE ?
KLIK
KLIK

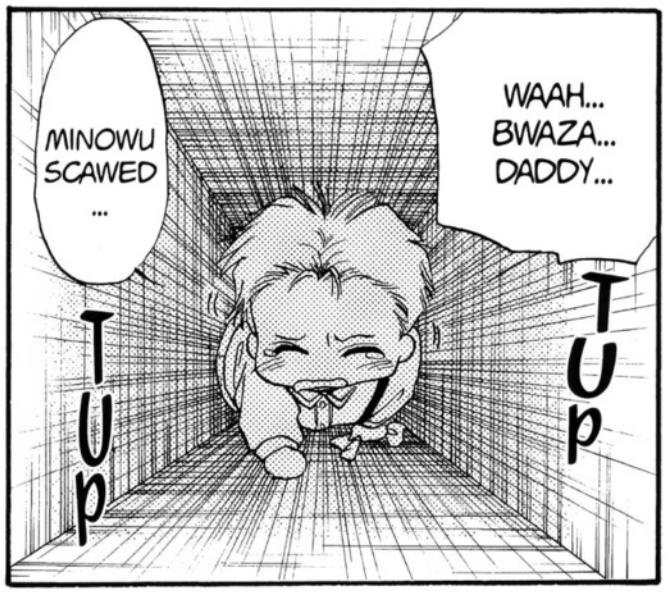

ちちち!
WE DID IT!

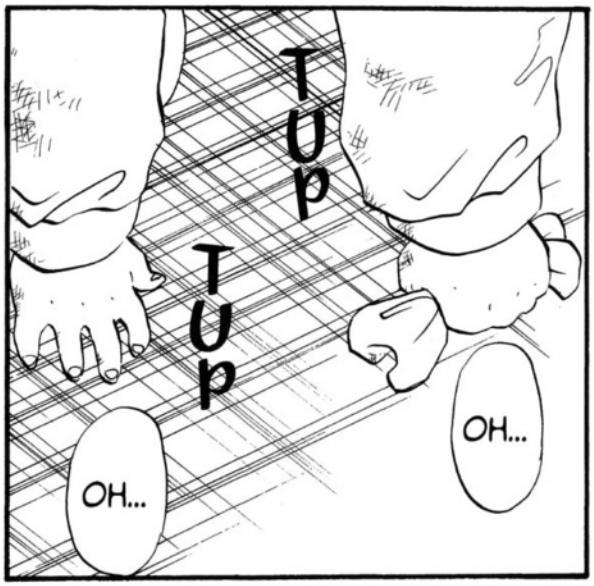
WHAT?

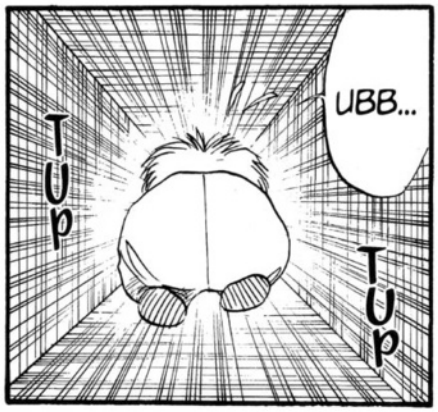


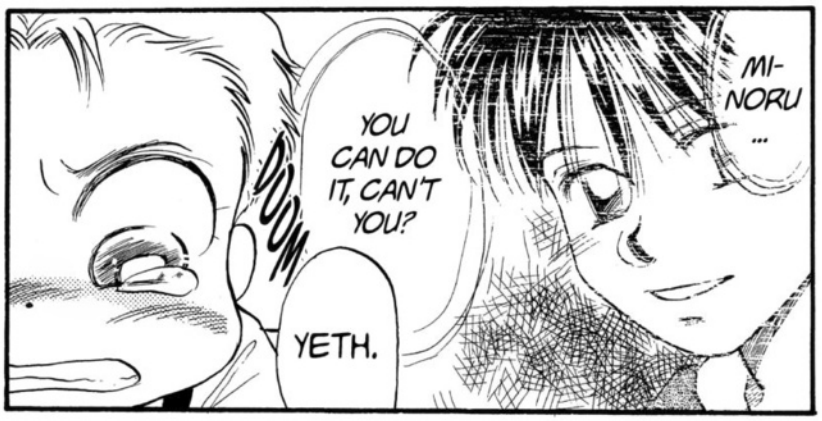

KOTA DOUBLE-CROSSED US!!


WHAT?
HUH?
KOTA ...


MINOWU SCAWED ...
WAAH... BWAZA... DADDY...
TUp
TUp

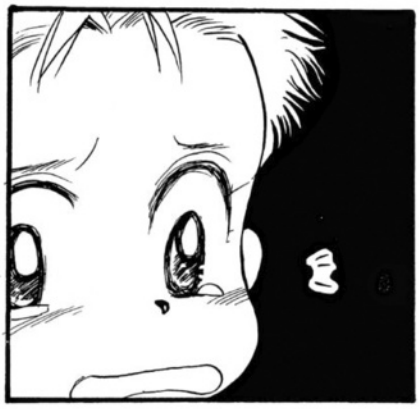

TUp
TUp
OH...
OH...

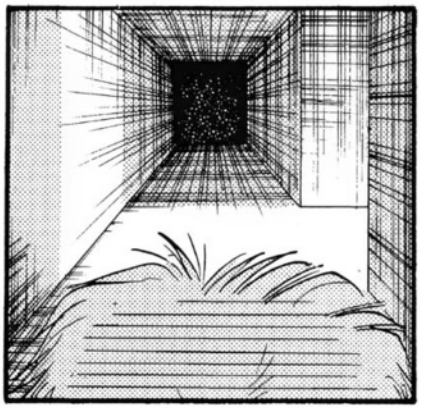

UBB...
TUp
TUp

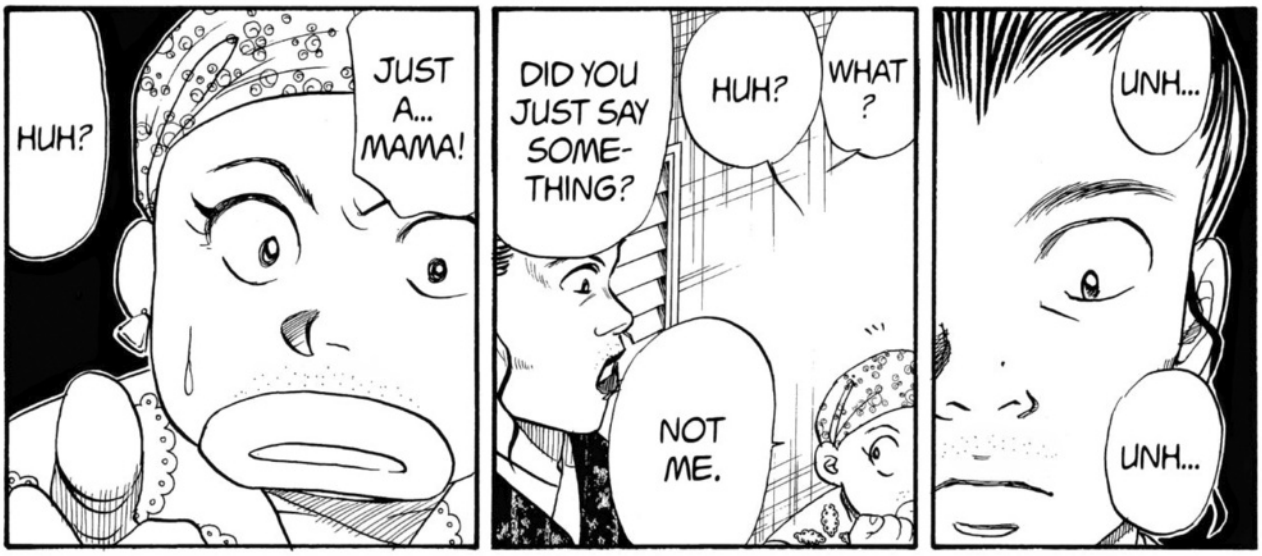

MI-NORU ...
YOU CAN DO IT, CAN'T YOU?
DUM
YETH.

I'M TIRED OF WAITING, AREN'T YOU?

SIGH...

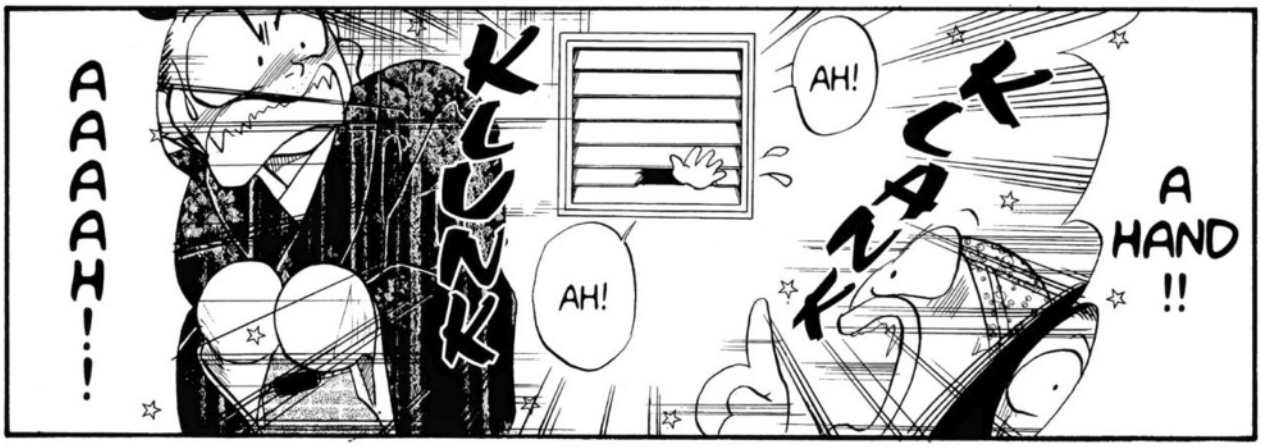


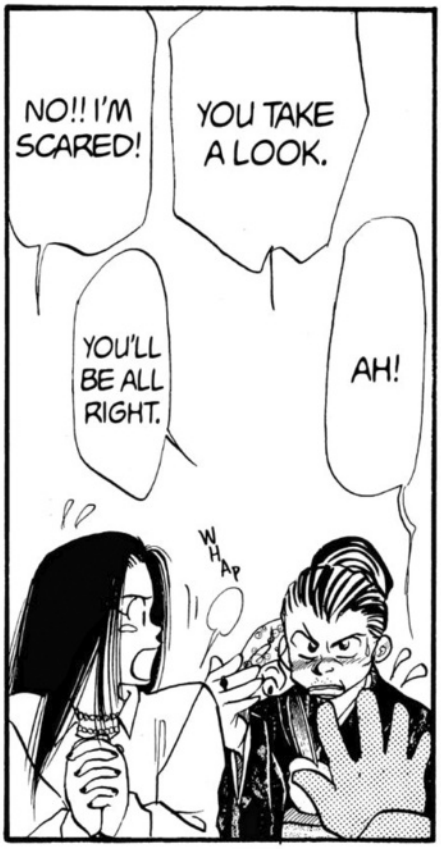



HUH?
JUST A... MAMA!

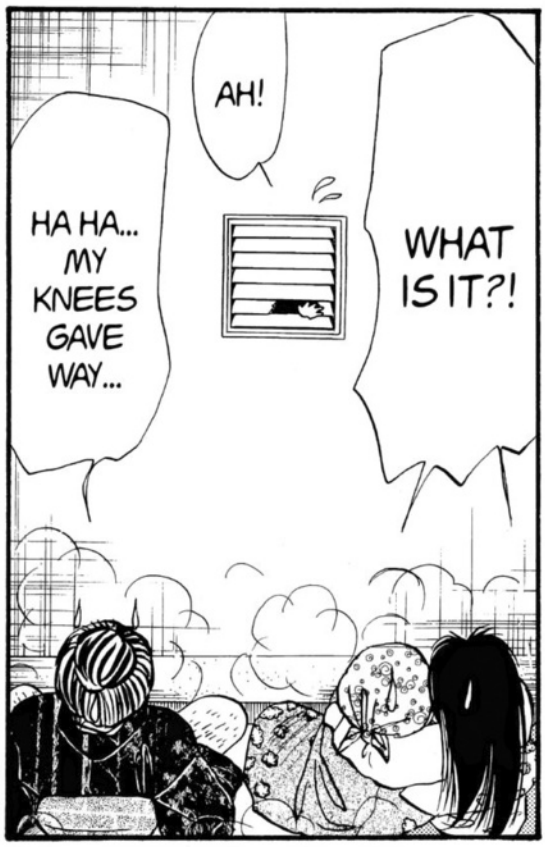
DID YOU JUST SAY SOME-THING?
HUH?
WHAT ?
NOT ME.

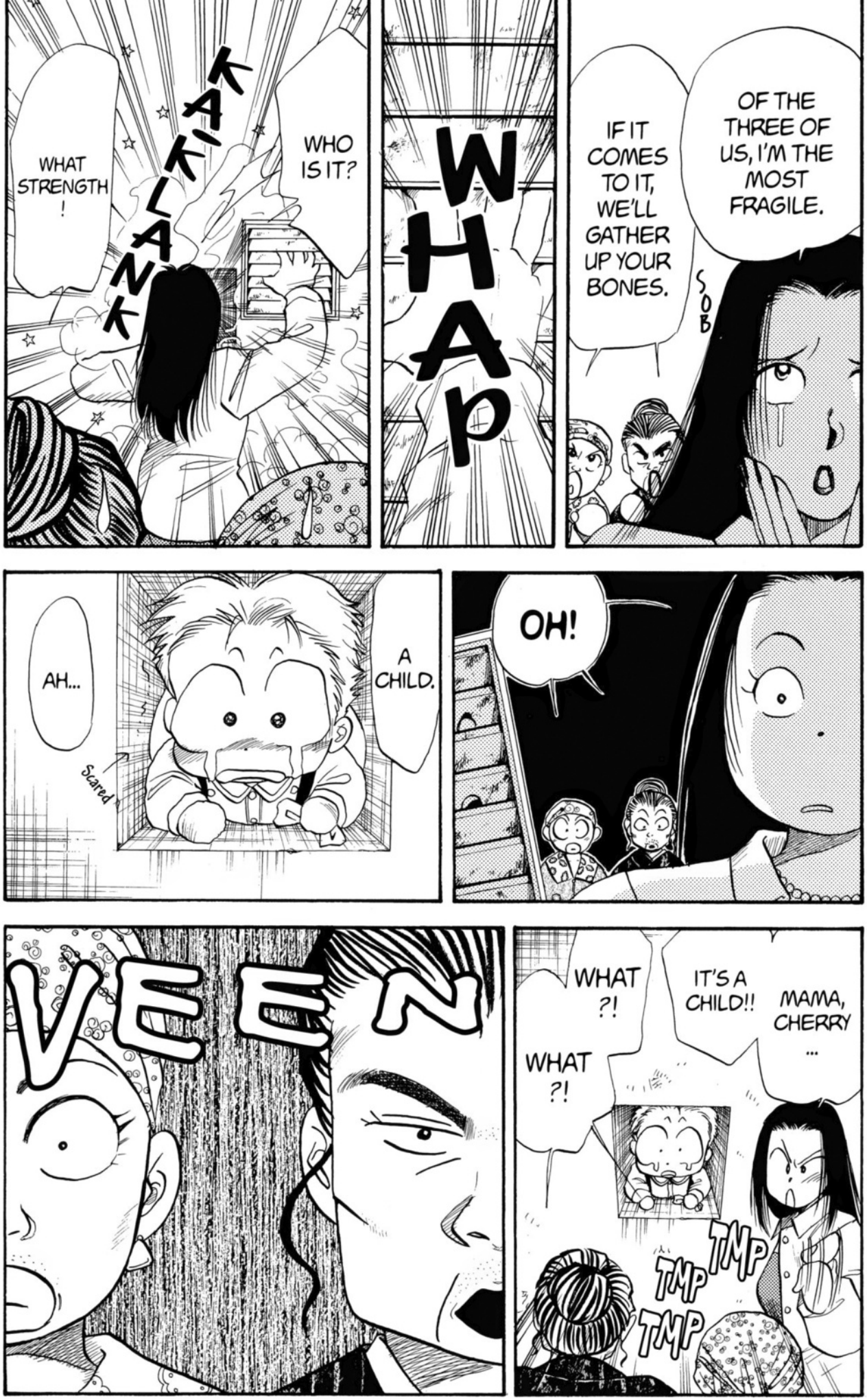
UNH...
UNH...


AAAAH!!
KLUNK
AH!
AH!
KLANK
A HAND !!

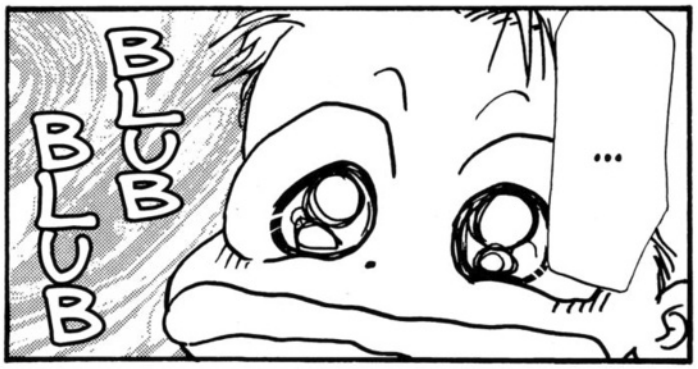

NO!! I'M SCARED!
YOU TAKE A LOOK.
YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT.
AH!
WHAP

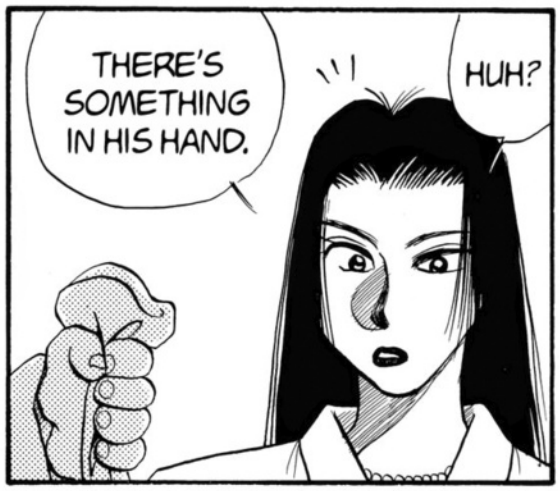
OH! THAT SOUNDS LIKE A BABY CRYING!
WAAAAHOO

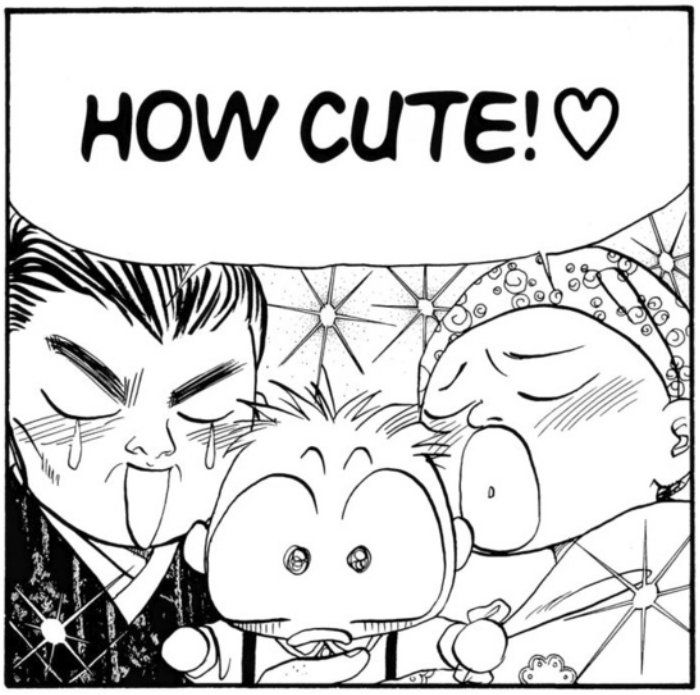

AH!
HA HA... MY KNEES GAVE WAY...
WHAT IS IT?!


WHAT STRENGTH!
KAKLANK
WHO IS IT?
WHAP
IF IT COMES TO IT, WE'LL GATHER UP YOUR BONES.
OF THE THREE OF US, I'M THE MOST FRAGILE.
SOB
AH...
Scared
A CHILD.
OH!
VEEN
WHAT ?!
WHAT ?!
IT'S A CHILD!!
MAMA, CHERRY ...
TMP
TMP
TMP

WHAT AN ANNOYING CHILD...
HE'p! MONS'ERS!
GWAAAH


BLUB BLUB BLUB
...


THERE'S SOMETHING IN HIS HAND.
HUH?

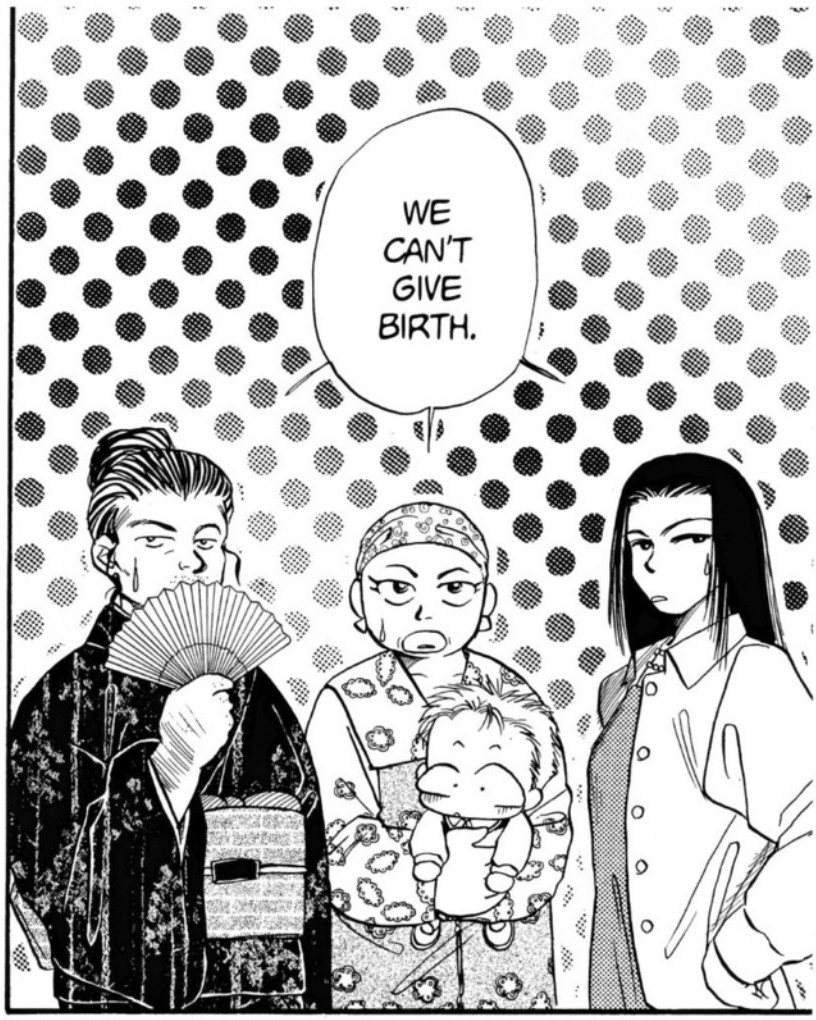

HOW CUTE!♡

WHICH OF YOU GAVE BIRTH TO HIM?
HUH?

THANKS FOR WAITING. I'M SORRY IT TOOK SO LONG.
CHUNK

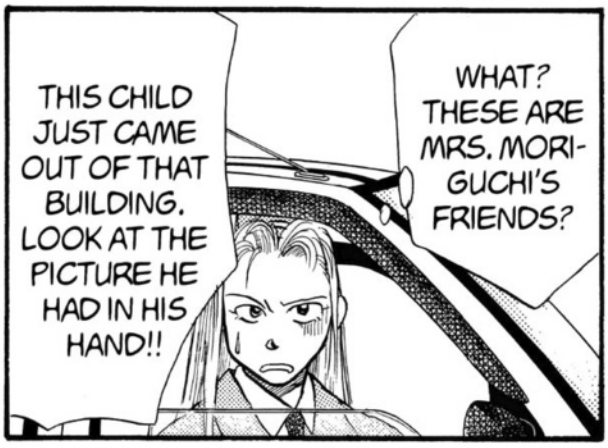
SKREECH

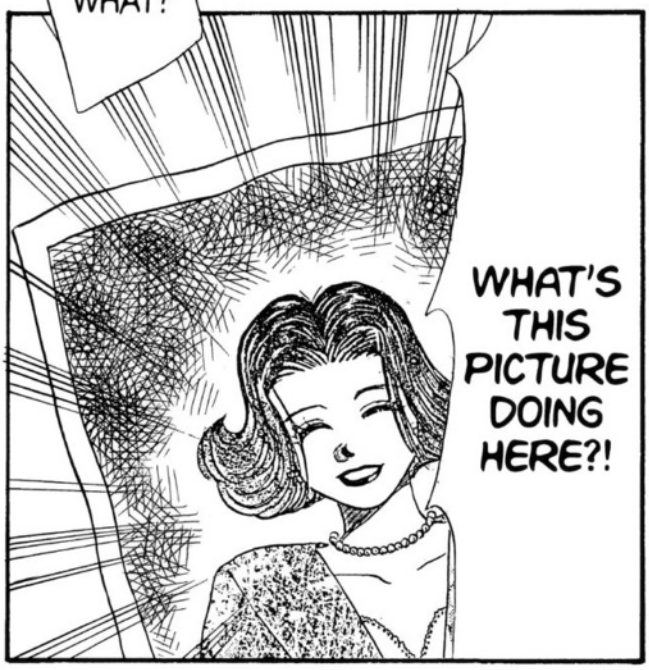
OH, MY...
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN. MY HUSBAND'S VERY GRATEFUL TO YOU.
OH, FUMIKO ...
HO HO HO
BOW

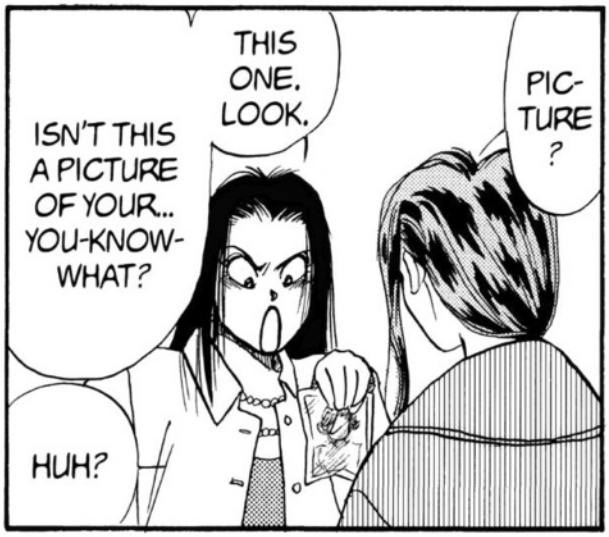

WE CAN'T GIVE BIRTH.

NEVER MIND THAT. HIROSHI, SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAS HAPPENED.

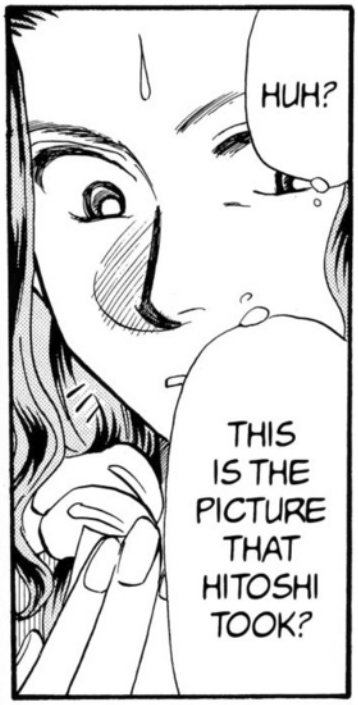
DOOM
WHAT?


THIS CHILD JUST CAME OUT OF THAT BUILDING. LOOK AT THE PICTURE HE HAD IN HIS HAND!!
WHAT? THESE ARE MRS. MORIGUCHI'S FRIENDS?


WHAT'S THIS PICTURE DOING HERE?!


THIS ONE. LOOK.
PICTURE ?
ISN'T THIS A PICTURE OF YOUR... YOU-KNOW-WHAT?
HUH?

LOOK ON THE BACK.
IF THIS IS HERE, THEN... WHERE'S HITOSHI?

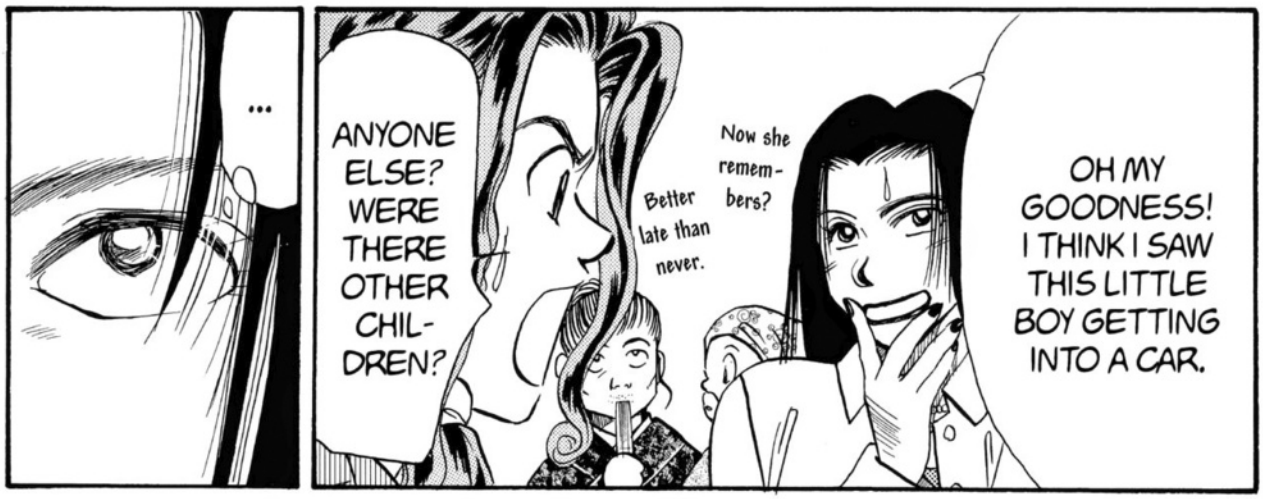

HUH?
THIS IS THE PICTURE THAT HITOSHI TOOK?

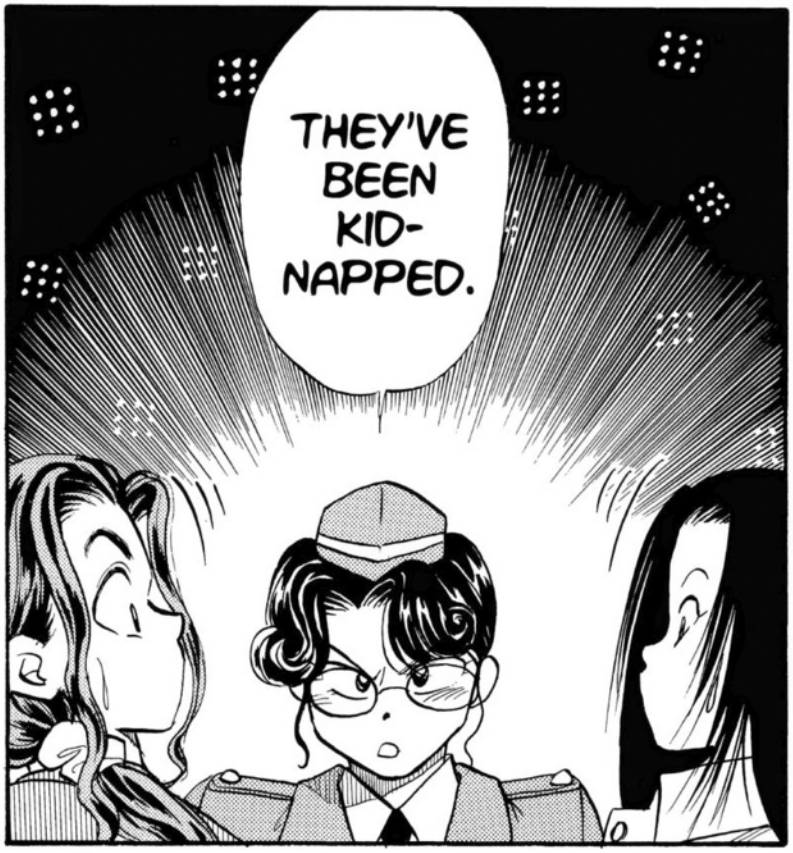
OH NO!! IT'S NOTHING...
WHAT IS IT?
WHAP

IT'S WRIT-TEN IN BLOOD!
HITOSHI!!

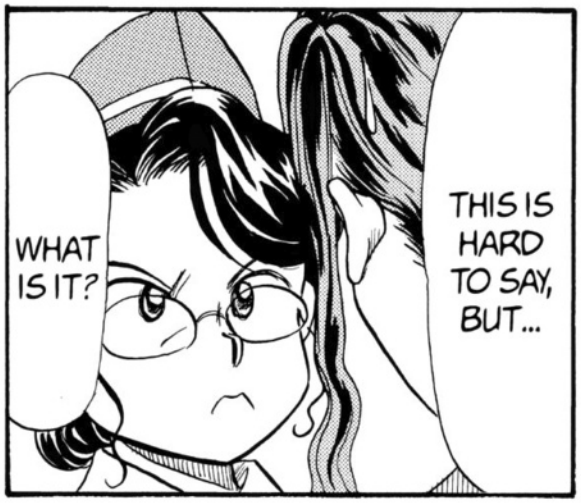
OH!
EHP
WHAT? THE BACK?

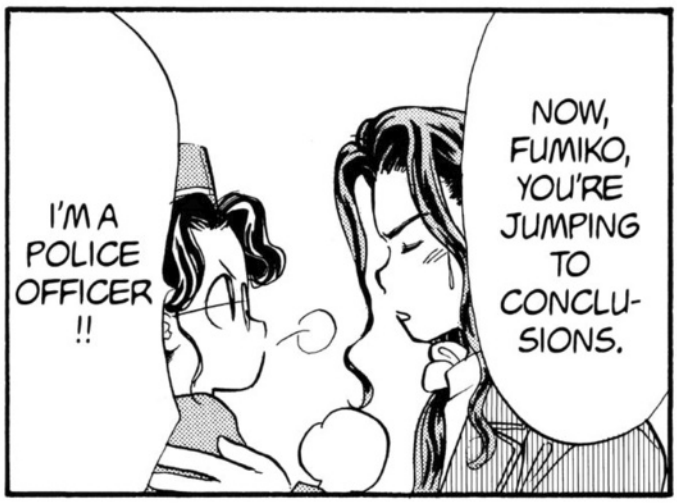
HELP

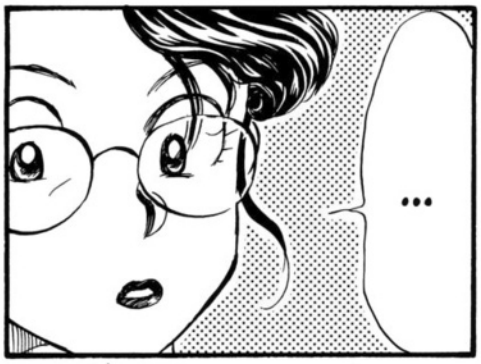

...
ANYONE ELSE? WERE THERE OTHER CHIL-DREN?
Better late than never.
Now she remem-bers?
OH MY GOODNESS! I THINK I SAW THIS LITTLE BOY GETTING INTO A CAR.


THEY'VE BEEN KID-NAPPED.

DIDN'T YOU THREE THINK THERE WAS SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT THAT?!
YES! THERE WAS A HANDSOME BOY AND, I COULDN'T SEE TOO CLEARLY, BUT I THINK THERE WAS ANOTHER ONE IN THE CAR.
What?
WHAK


WHAT IS IT?
THIS IS HARD TO SAY, BUT...


I'M A POLICE OFFICER !!
NOW, FUMIKO, YOU'RE JUMPING TO CONCLU-SIONS.


...

FUMIKO!!
WHUMP
She's a mother, after all.

HITOSHI WAS ONE OF THE BOYS WHO WAS KIDNAPPED.

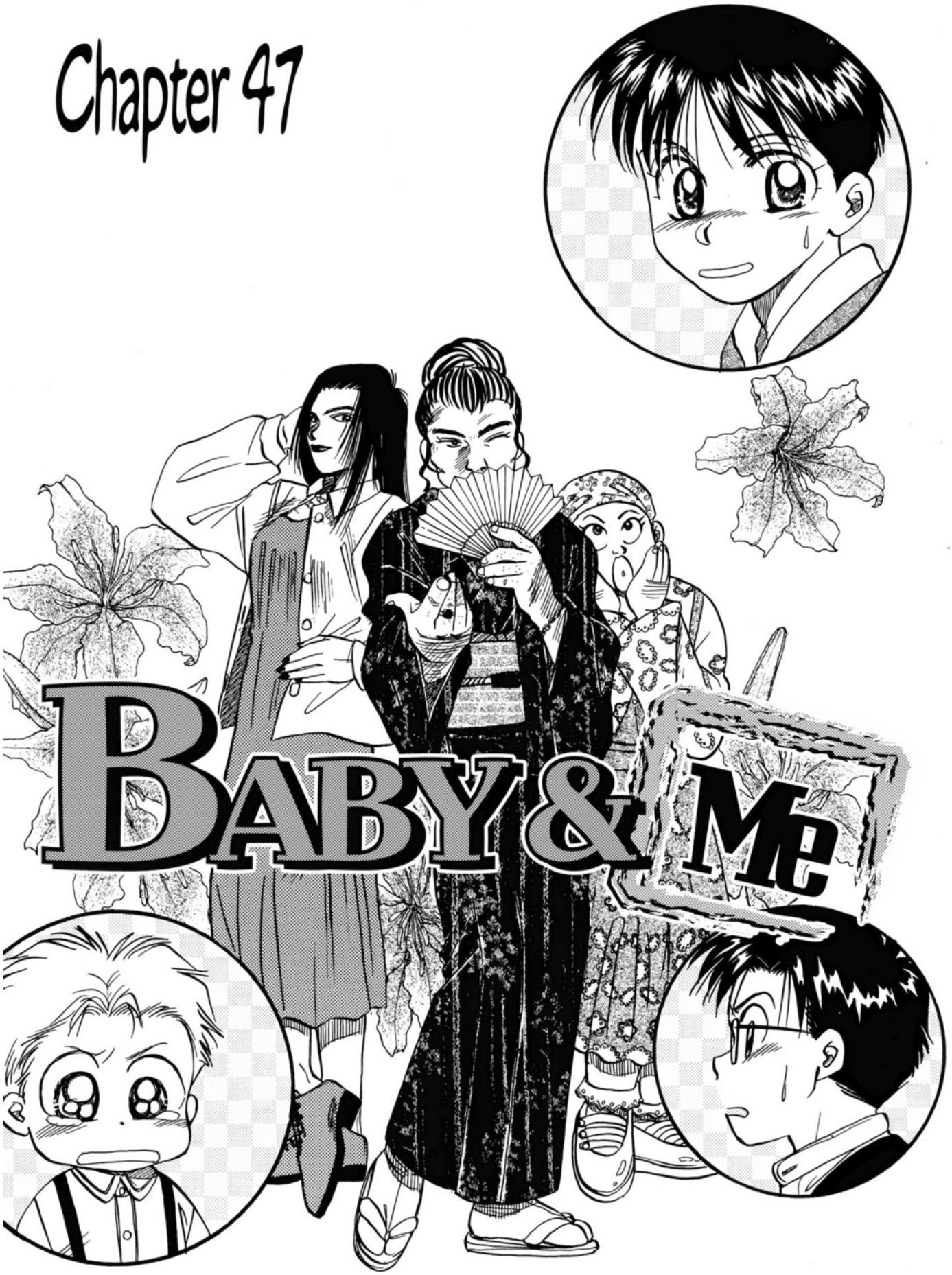
WHAM

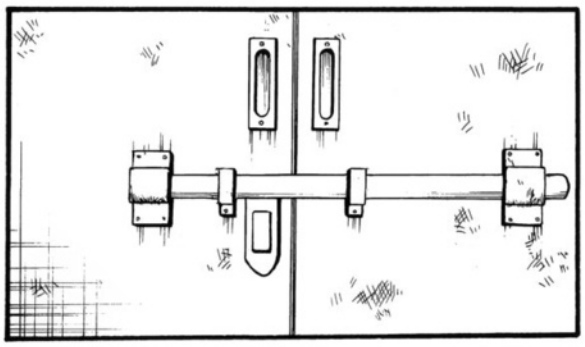
YEAH.
HE'S OKAY.
HE'S GOT TO BE OKAY!!

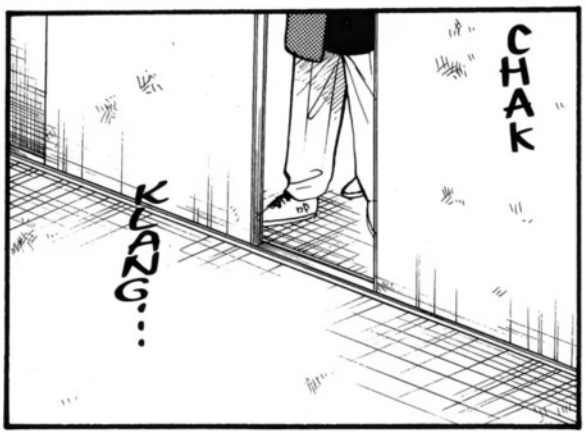
WE CAN ONLY HOPE HE DID.
I WONDER IF MINORU MADE IT OUT OKAY?

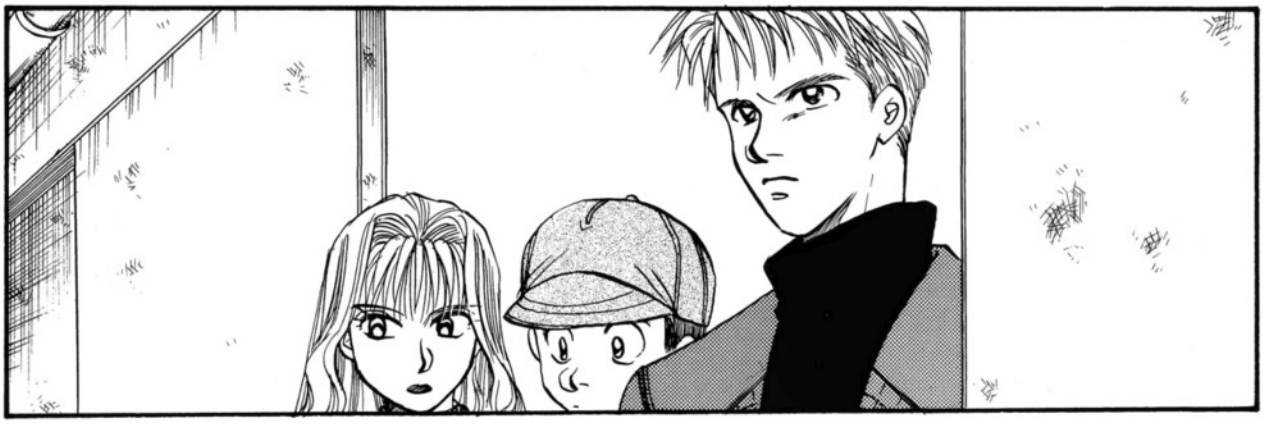
Chapter 46 / The End

Chapter 47

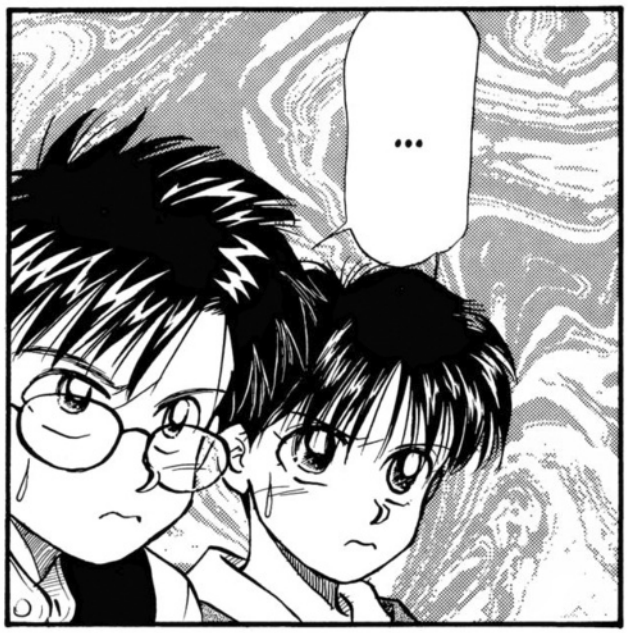


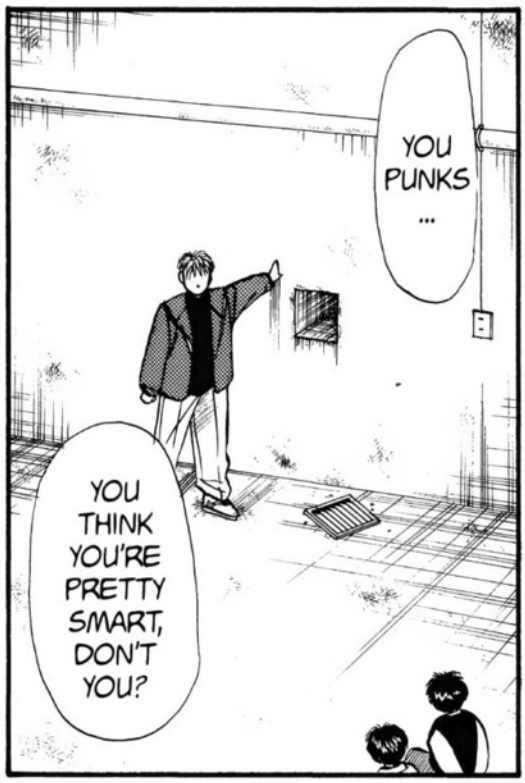


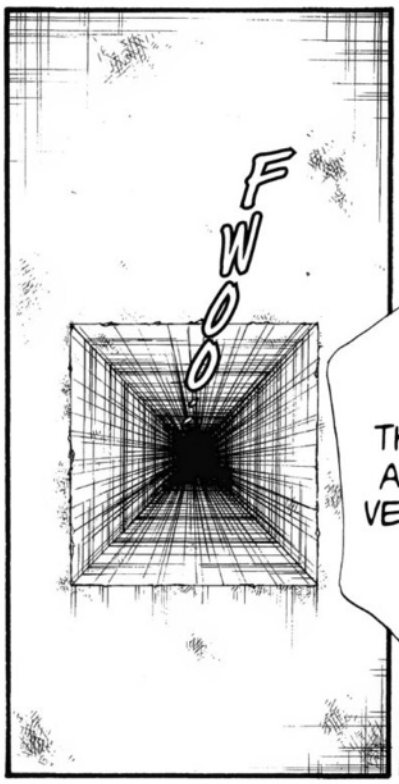

CHAK
KLANG...



OH.
YUSAKU, LOOK THERE.
HEY... WHERE'S THE SHRIMP?
...?

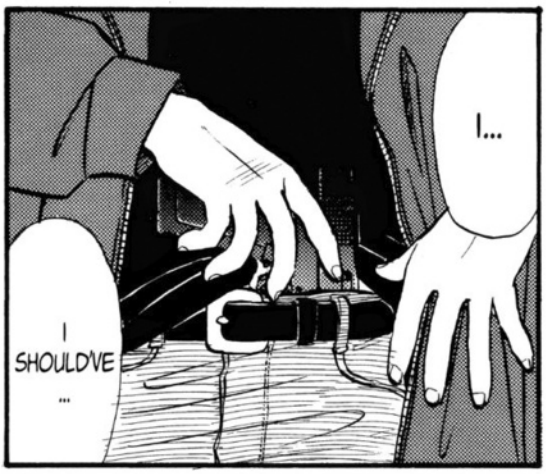

...


YOU PUNKS ...
YOU THINK YOU'RE PRETTY SMART, DON'T YOU?


FWOO

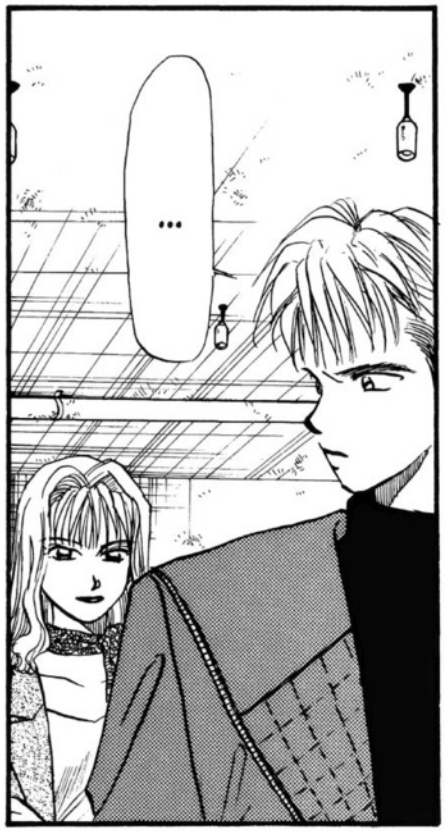
THE AIR VENT.

I UNDER-ESTI-MATED ...
CHAK
...YOU TWO.


I...
I SHOULD'VE ...

...KILLED YOU SOONER.

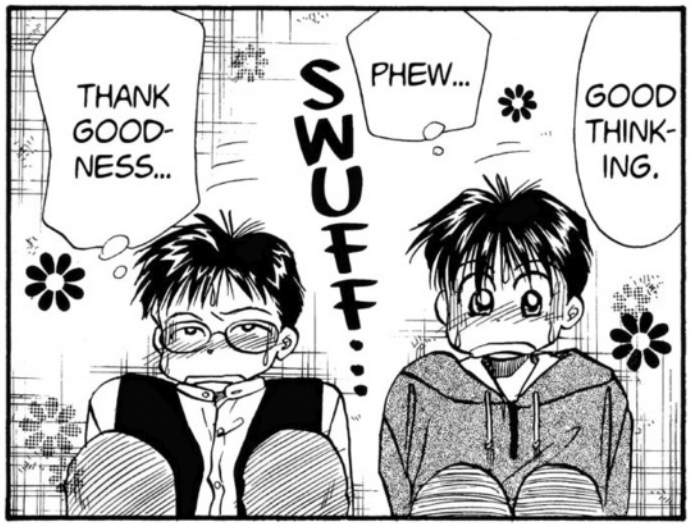
YU-SAKU ...
WAIT A MINUTE.

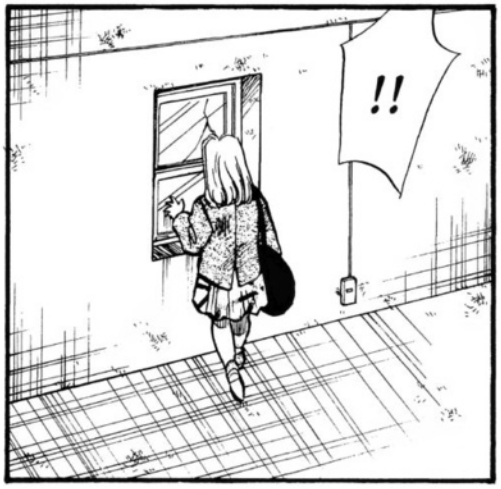

...

AND WE'RE GOING TO NEED HOSTAGES. IF THEY CORNER US, THEY'RE OUR ONLY CHANCE.

WHAT, MITCHAN ?
LET'S USE OUR HEADS.
IF THAT LITTLE ONE GOT AWAY, WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

COME ON.
TUG
GET UP.
GET UP!!
C'MON.


GOOD THINK-ING.
PHEW...
SWUFF...
THANK GOOD-NESS...


!!

MINORU!!
HURRY!! SOMEBODY, PLEASE HURRY!!

WHAT ?!
WE'RE IN TROU-BLE!!
THE COPS ARE OUTSIDE!!

A PATROL CAR?!

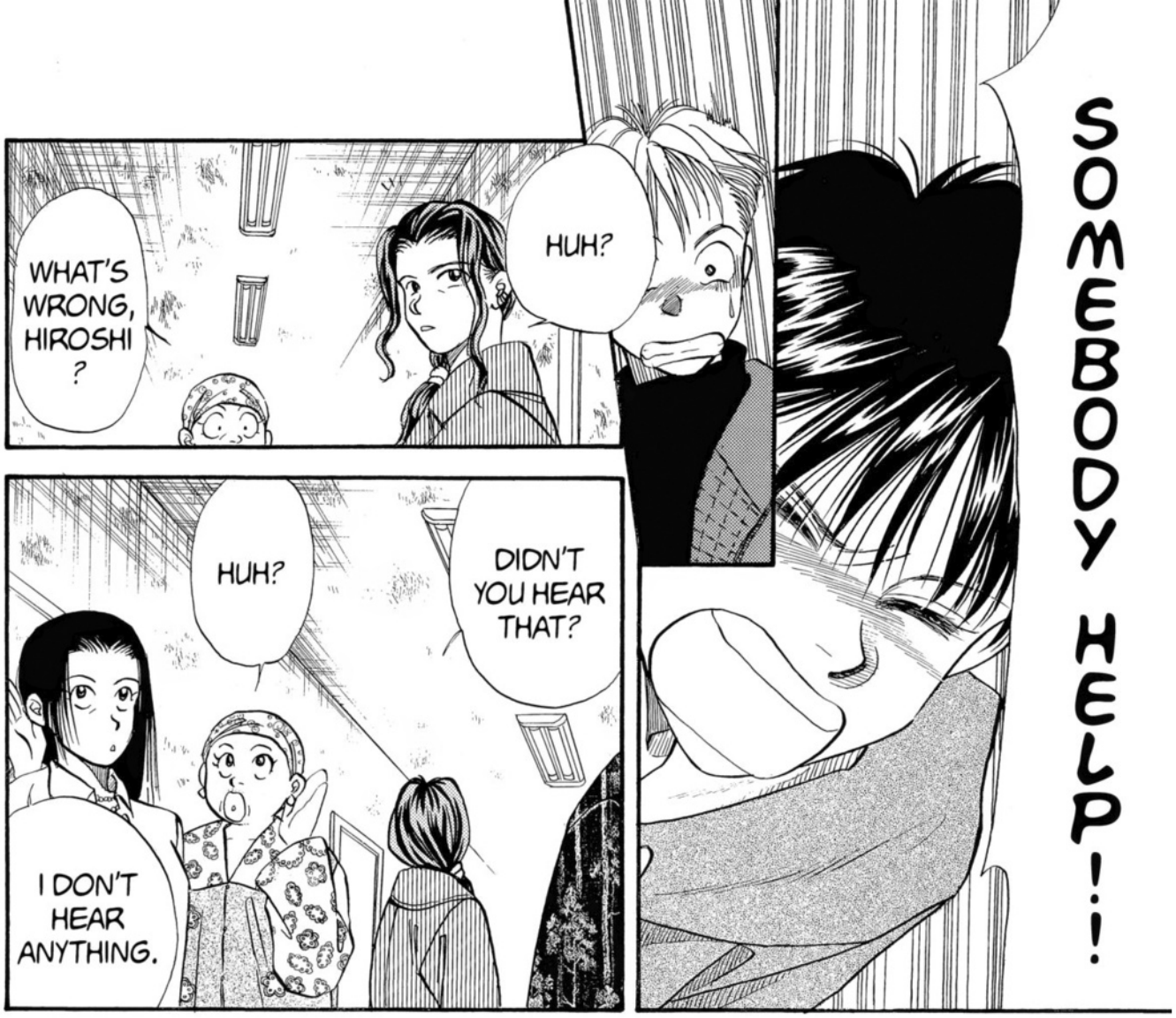
WHAK
SHUT UP, YOU!

!!
YOU'RE GONNA GET CAUGHT ANYWAY!! WHY DON'T YOU GIVE YOURSELVES UP?!
LET'S GO OUT THE BACK!!

!!
ドくん
ドくん
ドくん

SHHH ...

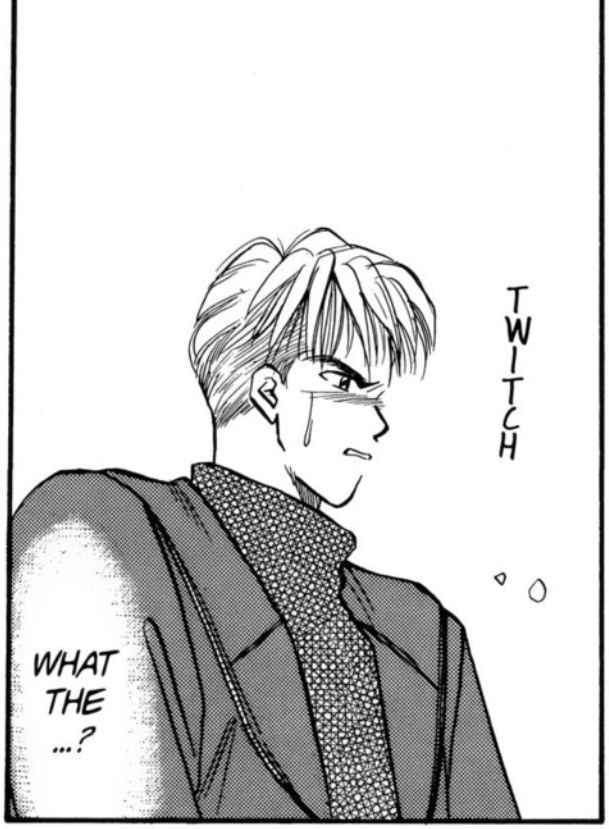
M-MORIGUCHI, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
OW...


SOMEBODY HELP!!
HUH?
WHAT'S WRONG, HIROSHI ?
DIDN'T YOU HEAR THAT?
HUH?
I DON'T HEAR ANYTHING.

UNH...
TAKUYA ?!
KOFF
KOFF
IS IT YOUR STOMACH? CAN YOU BREATHE?

SWIP!!

SIGH
THUD
HE LOOKS QUIET, BUT...
SIGH
STUPID KID...



HIS EYES ...

THEY REMIND ME OF KOTA'S.

PLEASE COME QUICKLY.
HURRY!
OKAY!! JUST CALM DOWN.
KRAK

THERE'S A GROUP OF SUSPECTED KIDNAPPERS IN THE BUILDING.

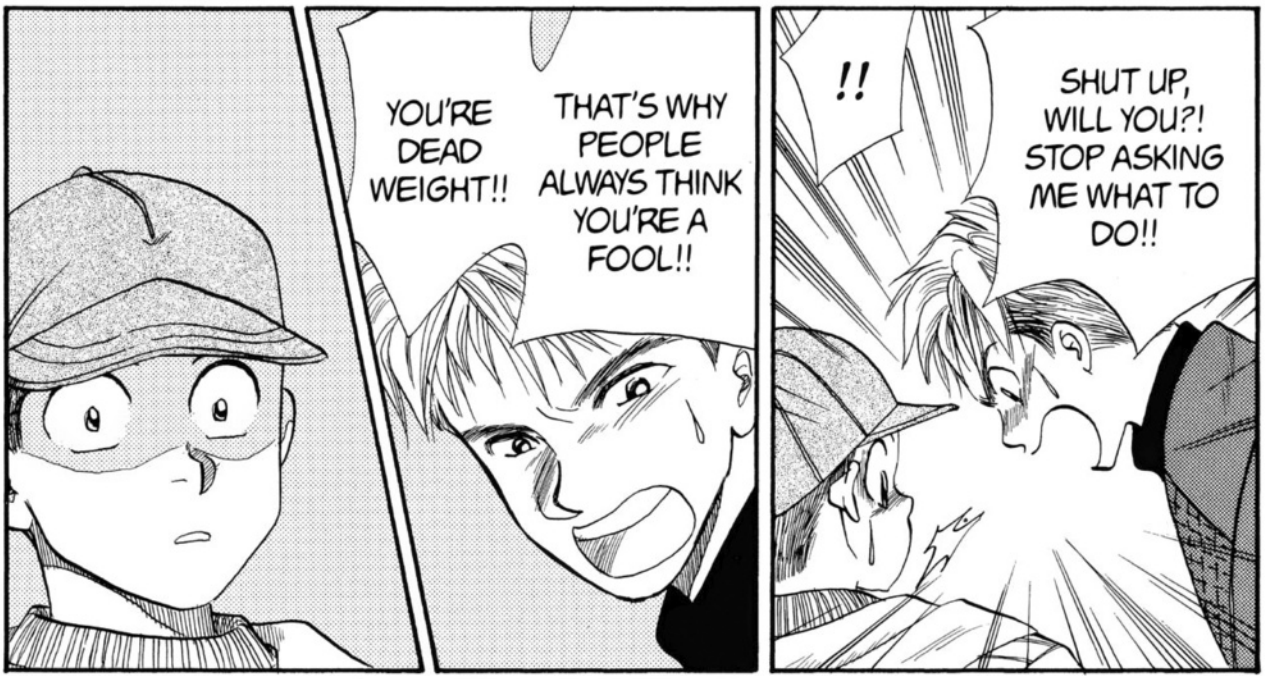
BESIDES, MY JUNIOR OFFICER IS CALLING FOR BACKUP, SO I'LL BE FINE!!
I'M A POLICE OFFICER !!
KRK

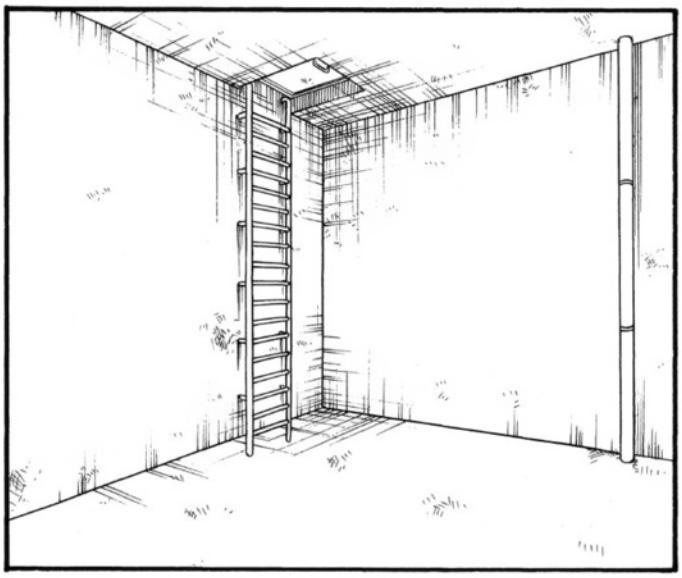
THE HIGHER WE GO...
...THE HARDER IT'LL BE TO ESCAPE.

HUFF
KLAK
HUFF
KLAK
KLAK
HUFF

HUH? WHAT? I CAN'T HEAR YOU.
BWAZAA
WAAAHAAAAA
WAAAH
WHAT? I CAN'T HEAR A WORD YOU'RE SAYING!

SHE'S RIGHT. YUSAKU, WHAT'LL WE DO?
...


YOU'RE DEAD WEIGHT!!
THAT'S WHY PEOPLE ALWAYS THINK YOU'RE A FOOL!!
!!
SHUT UP, WILL YOU?! STOP ASKING ME WHAT TO DO!!



!!
THUMP

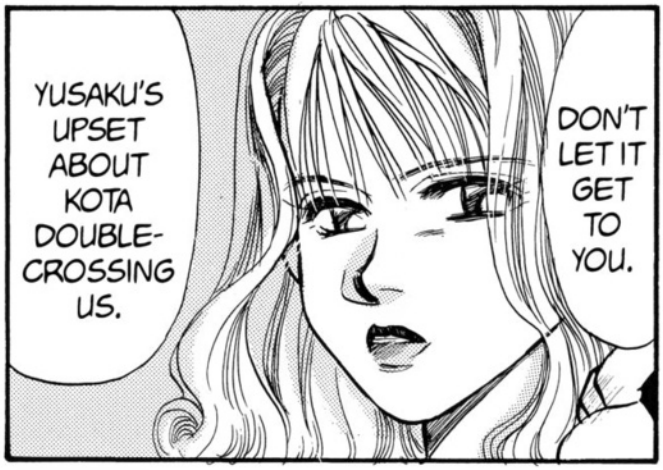
AKIRA ...

I'LL GO HAVE A LOOK AROUND.
HUH? WHAT ABOUT YOU, YUSAKU?
STAY HERE.

AKIRA...
WH-WHAT IS IT, MIT-CHAN?

A... ALL RIGHT.

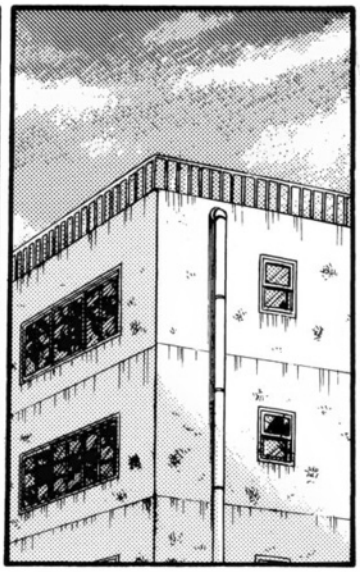
NOW LISTEN, I WANT YOU TO KEEP AN EYE ON THOSE KIDS.
YOU'RE IN CHARGE.
WHUP


YUSAKU'S UPSET ABOUT KOTA DOUBLE-CROSSING US.
DON'T LET IT GET TO YOU.

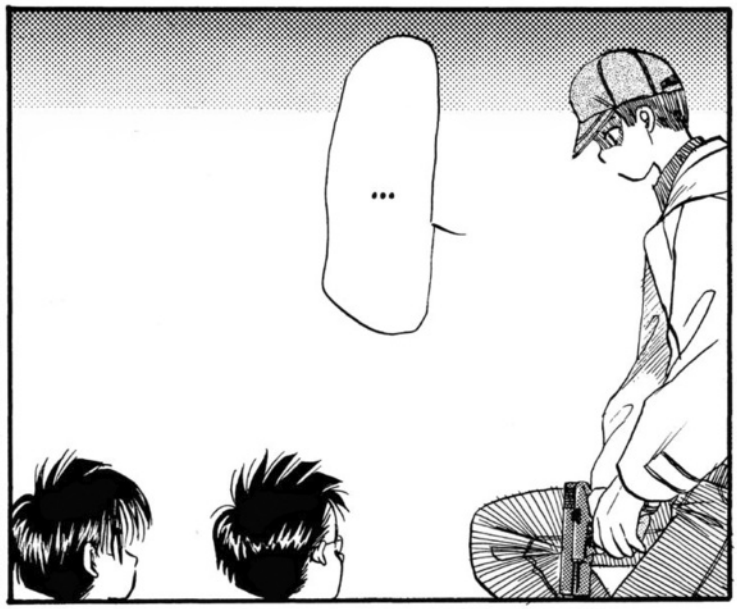
WHY DON'T YOU SURREN-DER?
IF YOU KILL US, THERE'LL BE NO TURNING BACK.

...
?

YOU'RE WALKING DEEPER AND DEEPER INTO QUICK-SAND.
I'LL TELL YOU THIS BECAUSE YOU SEEM TO BE A GOOD PERSON.



MORI-GUCHI ...
HUH?
WE'RE GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT.
WHY DO YOU SAY THAT ?

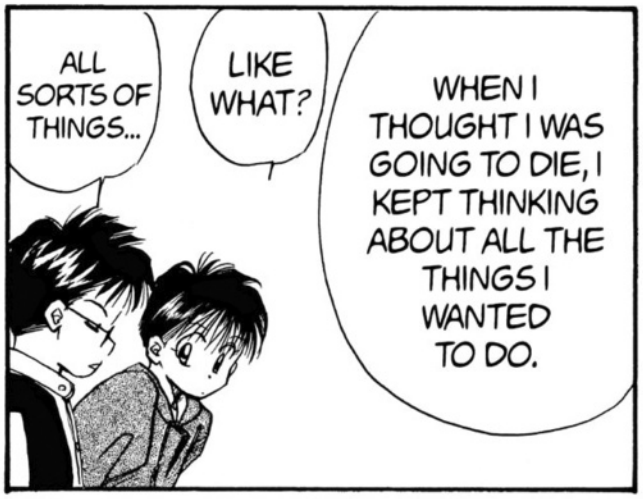

...

TA-KUYA, YOU...
HUH?
YOU'RE REALLY NOT WORRIED, HUH?
WHAT ?

HE SAYS HE'LL KILL US, BUT...
...HE SEEMS TO BE STRETCHING THINGS OUT, TRYING TO AVOID IT.
I DON'T THINK HE REALLY WANTS TO KILL US.

WHEN HE THREATENED ME INTO REMEMBERING THE CODE FOR THE SAFE...
...I WAS SCARED. I THOUGHT HE WAS REALLY GOING TO SHOOT ME.

AKIHIRO'S SUPER FAMICOM GAME THAT I NEED TO RETURN...
AND MY STUDENT COUNCIL RESPONSI-BILITIES ...
AND HOW I SHOULD'VE TALKED TO MY MOM AND DAD MORE.


WHEN I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO DIE, I KEPT THINKING ABOUT ALL THE THINGS I WANTED TO DO.
LIKE WHAT?
ALL SORTS OF THINGS...

BUT WHY? THEY'RE AWFUL PEOPLE.
BUT I...I CAN'T BETRAY THEM.
I DON'T WANT TO LOSE THEM.

THOSE TWO REALIZE THAT.
THEY DON'T LIKE THIS SITUATION ANY MORE THAN YOU DO.

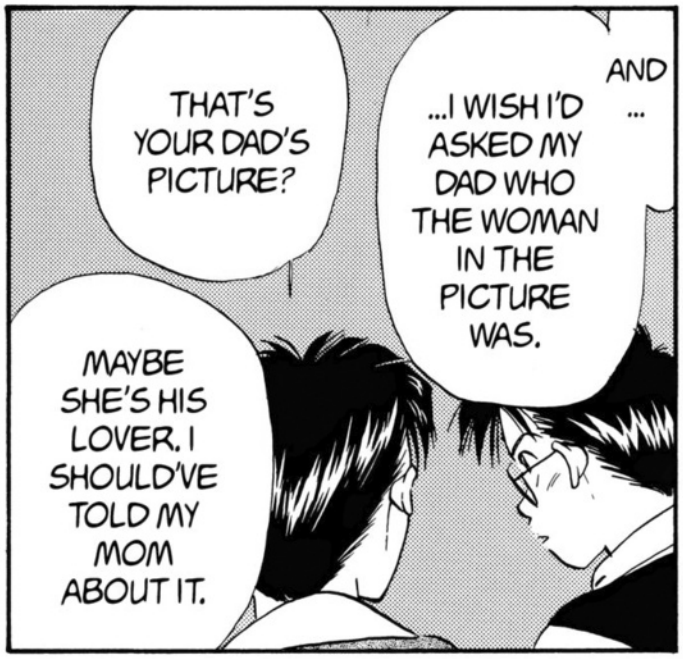
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING. CAN'T YOU SPEAK UP?
I HAVE TROUBLE TALKING TO PEOPLE.

PEOPLE ALWAYS MAKE FUN OF ME.
AS YOU CAN PROBABLY TELL, I'M NOT ALL THAT SMART.

WE'VE BEEN FRIENDS SINCE OUR DAYS IN THE ORPHANAGE.
THEY'RE NOT AWFUL.

MITCHAN, YOU'RE SO DIFFERENT NOW.
IS YOUR JOB TOUGH?
HA
HA
OVER HERE.
AKIRA ...

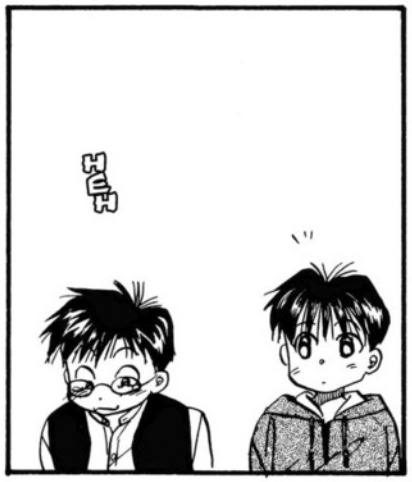
YOU IDIOT.
IT'S YOUR FAULT WE DIDN'T MAKE OUR QUOTA.
YOU CAN JUST STAY HERE TILL YOU FINISH THE WORK.


THAT'S YOUR DAD'S PICTURE?
...I WISH I'D ASKED MY DAD WHO THE WOMAN IN THE PICTURE WAS.
AND ...
MAYBE SHE'S HIS LOVER. I SHOULD'VE TOLD MY MOM ABOUT IT.

WHY? HIS NOSE WOULD JUST RUN AGAIN.
I WISH I'D PLAYED WITH MINORU'S CHEEKS MORE.

HUH? WELL...
WHY ARE YOU SMILING?

YEAH. I CAN'T WAIT TO TELL HER.
IF WE GET OUT OF THIS ALIVE, YOU CAN TELL HER.
HEH HEH HEH


HEH

MONEY'S BEEN DISAP-PEARING FROM THE SHOP.

I...
I JUST LIKE LISTENING TO YOU TALK.

I NEVER TOOK ANY MONEY FROM THAT SHOP.
IT CAN'T BE HELPED.

IT MAKES ME SO MAD. WHENEVER THERE'S TROUBLE AT THE SHOP, THEY ALWAYS SUSPECT ME.
GRILLED SMELT
ICED TOFU

SOMEONE SAID THEY SAW YOU TAKE IT.

SO...
...I SEARCHED YOUR BELONGINGS.

LET'S NOT GIVE UP.
I BELIEVE IN YOU.
ZUZU...

LOOK, WE'RE OUT OF REFORM SCHOOL, NOW...
...AND WE'VE DECIDED TO GO STRAIGHT.

WE HAVE A RECORD.
IT'S ONLY NATURAL FOR THEM TO SUSPECT US.
KOTA ...

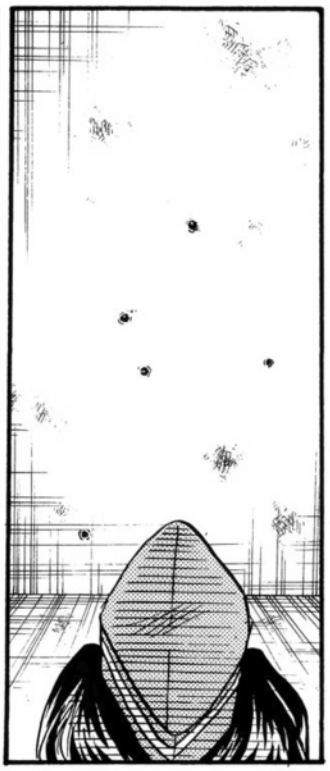
BUT I CAN'T STAND IT...
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO STRAIGHTEN MYSELF OUT.

KOTA...
DID...
DID YOU REALLY BELIEVE IN ME?!
NO ONE HERE EITHER.
OH.
OH NO! WHAT HAP-PENED?!
SH-SH-SHELL CASINGS !!
SNAP
LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE TRIED TO FORCE IT OPEN.
IT'S PRETTY BANGED UP.
A SAFE.
KLAK
WHAT'S IT DOING HERE?
KLAK

OH NO!!

OH...
WHUMP

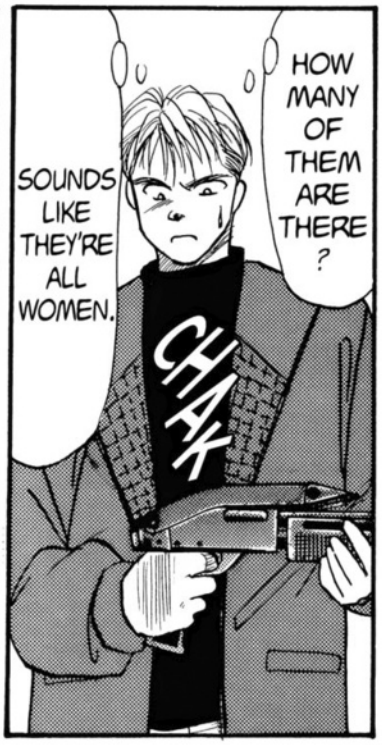
BULLET HOLES IN THE WALL...



!!
HMPH. THEY SHOULD TEAR DOWN ROTTEN BUILDINGS LIKE THIS.

MAYBE THEY'RE UP THERE.
OH, DEAR. THERE'S NO ONE HERE EITHER.

MAYBE WE CAN USE THE EMER-GENCY EXIT.
WEE-O WEE-O WEE-O


HOW MANY OF THEM ARE THERE?
SOUNDS LIKE THEY'RE ALL WOMEN.
CHAK

YOU KNOW, THEY SAY THAT FOOLS AND BRAVE PEOPLE LIKE HIGH PLACES.

Author's Note: Part 3

I did this bank robbery story because I wanted to go at *Baby and Me* from a different angle. It was a lot of fun to draw, even though it was a pain drawing so many characters.

Yusaku was pretty popular, but some people didn't like his name. 66

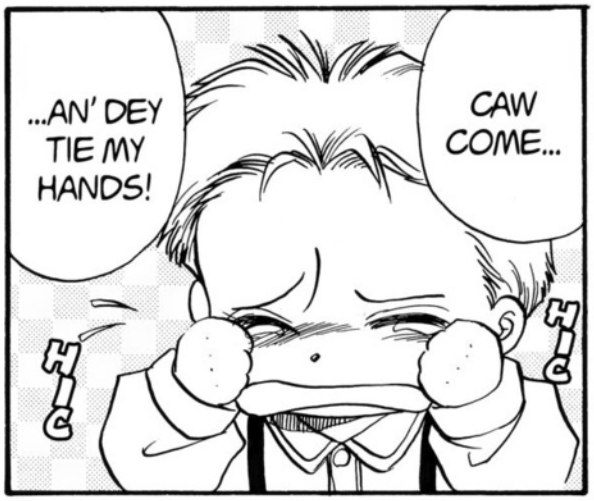
Chapter 46 Anecdote

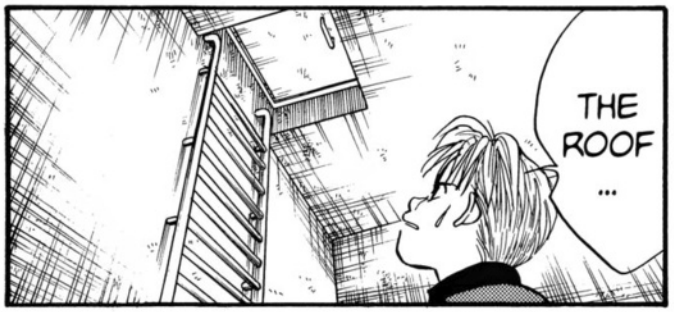
Originally, I'd intended for there to be money in the safe, but I was really short on pages, so I expanded a two-part story to three parts. Then I decided that there couldn't be money in the safe if I was going to keep the story going for another chapter. So the money had to go.

H-HOLD ON!!
TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP
I'VE THROWN OUT MY BACK!
MAMA...
HI-TOSHI !!
I'M COMING !!
BLAM
!!

KNOW WHAT?

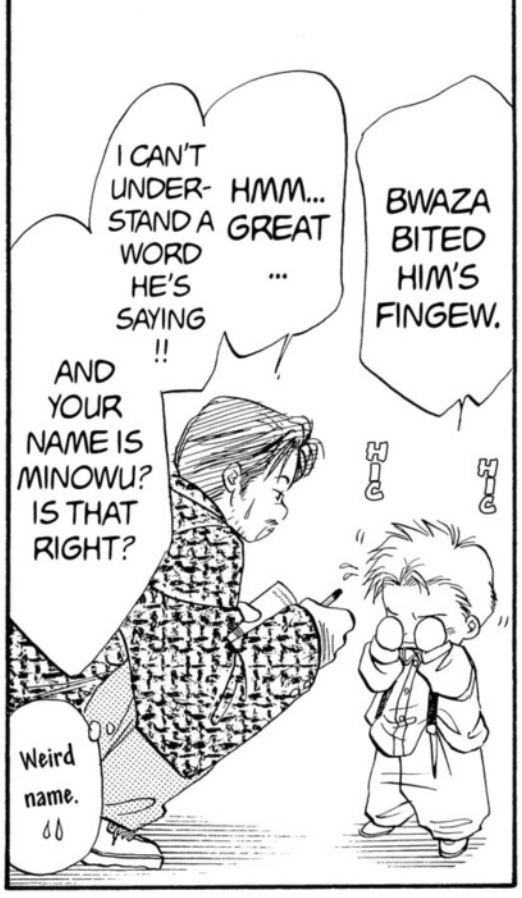
YUSAKU, WHAT IS IT? I HEARD A SHOT.
THE COPS GOT US SUR-ROUNDED.
AND THERE'S SOME WEIRD PEOPLE COMING THIS WAY.

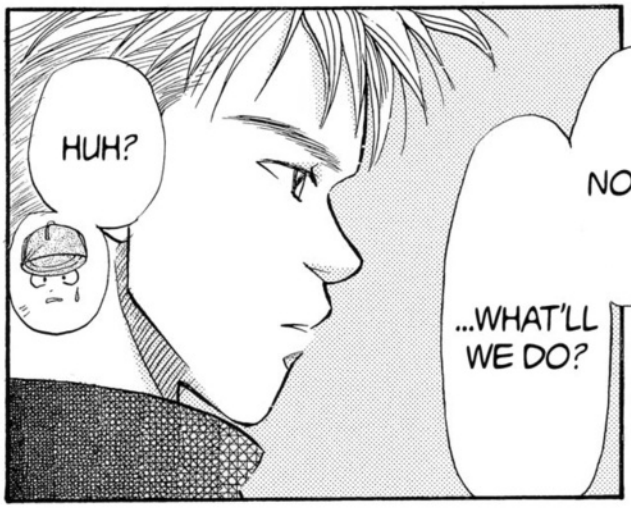

CAW COME...
...AN' DEY TIE MY HANDS!
HIC
HIC


THE ROOF ...

THEY'RE ON THE ROOF!
WAH
WAH
WAH

I- INSPECTOR, UP THERE!!
WHEEL

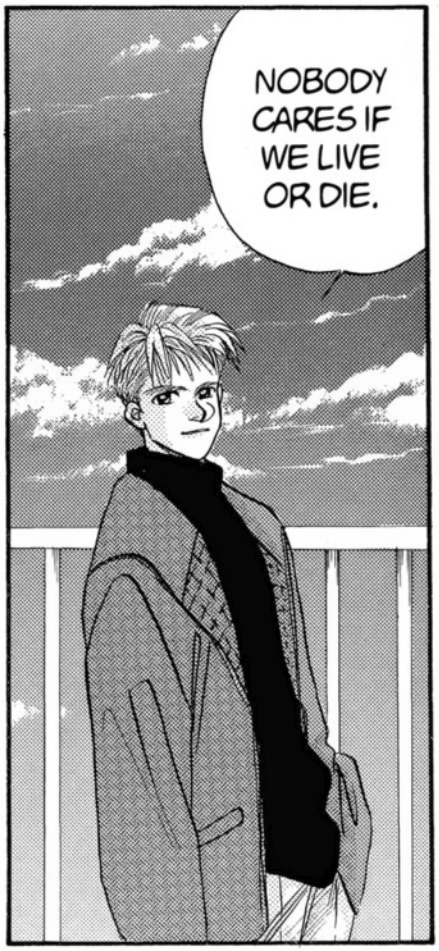

BWAZA BITED HIM'S FINGEW.
HMM... GREAT ...
I CAN'T UNDER-STAND A WORD HE'S SAYING !!
AND YOUR NAME IS MINOWU? IS THAT RIGHT?
HIC
HIC
Weird name.

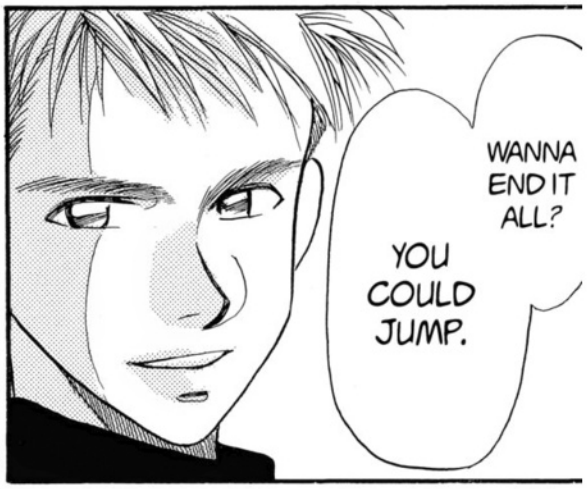

HUH?
NOW...
...WHAT'LL WE DO?

I THINK WE'RE FINISHED.
W-WELL...
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

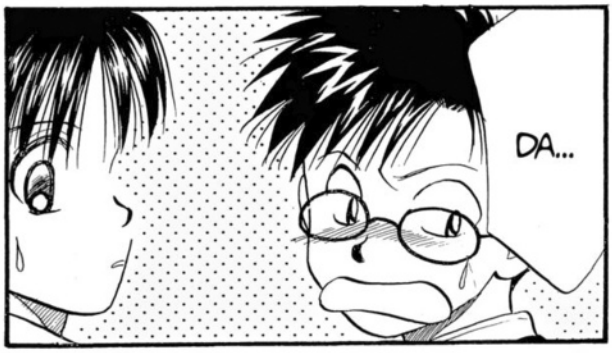
YUSAKU ...
WOOO!

WHAP


NOBODY CARES IF WE LIVE OR DIE.


WANNA END IT ALL?
YOU COULD JUMP.

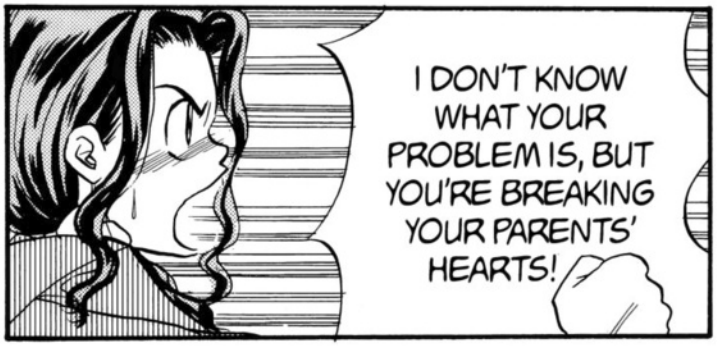
!!
...
THERE ISN'T ANYTHING FOR US ANYWAY.


DA...

NOW LISTEN, YOU! I'LL SEE THAT YOU PAY FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE!!
DAD!!

STOP FEELING SORRY FOR YOURSELF!!
YOU !!
WHUMP

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?!
SO THAT'S WHY THEY BECAME DELINQUENTS. LET'S LET THEM GO.
POOR THINGS ...
Little Orphan Bees...
PLUP...

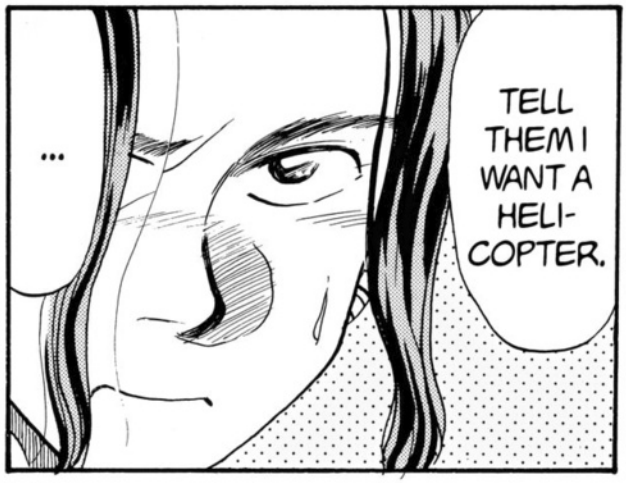

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR PROBLEM IS, BUT YOU'RE BREAKING YOUR PARENTS' HEARTS!

...
WE'RE ORPHANS.

OH!
KLAK...

JUST LET THE KIDS GO!
GET HIM!
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
TIWAK
EEEEK
TIWAK

YIKES! IT'S THOSE TRANSVES-TITES!!
TWITCH

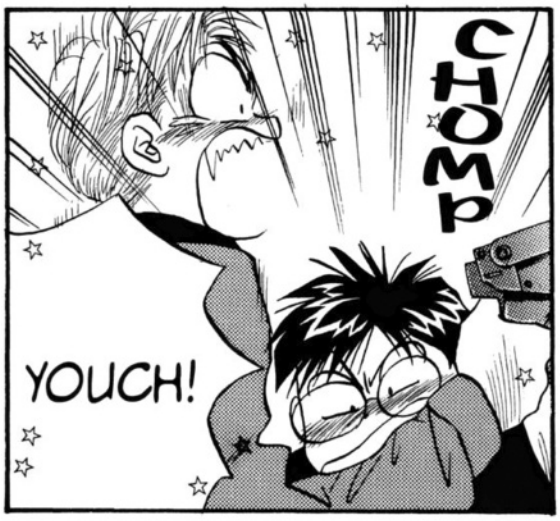

...
TELL THEM I WANT A HELI-COPTER.

...GO DOWN AND GIVE THE COPS A MESSAGE !!
THIS IS PERFECT. IF YOU DON'T WANT ME TO KILL YOUR KID...

WHY, YOU...
TAKUYA !!
SWAK

TMP

AH!
!!
WHAM

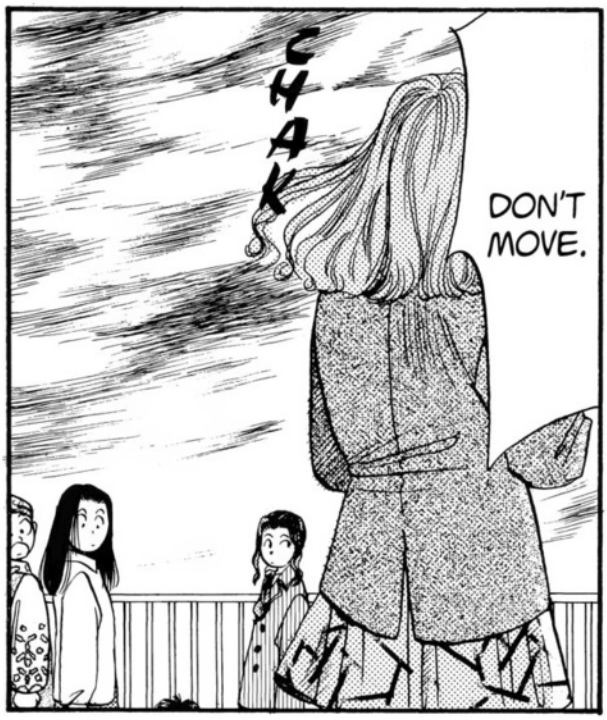

CHOMP
YOUCH!

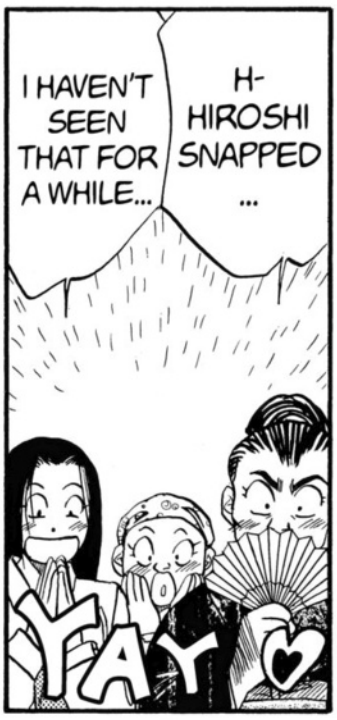
THE ONE ...
THE ONE ...

MOVE AND I'LL KILL YOU!!
FREEZE!!
CHAK

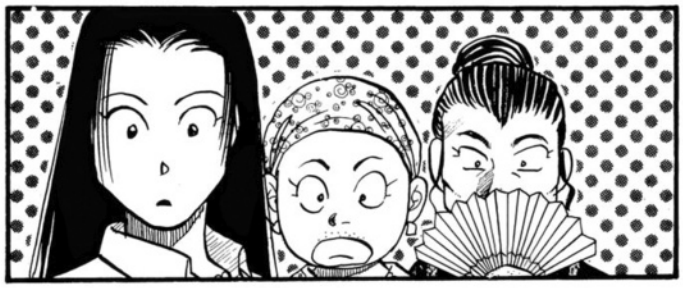
LOUSY BRAT...
WHAK
UGH ...

THIS IS FOR KIDNAPPING THESE SWEET CHILDREN!!
!!
THE ONE WHO'S GONNA DIE IS YOU!!
THUMPH
!!
FWUMP
WHAM
DIVINE PUNISH-MENT!

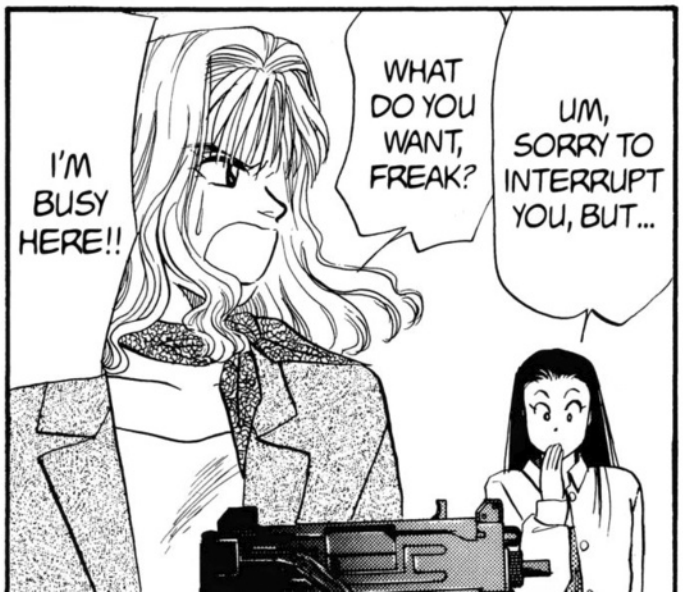

CHAK
DON'T MOVE.


I HAVEN'T SEEN THAT FOR A WHILE...
H-HIROSHI SNAPPED ...
YAY

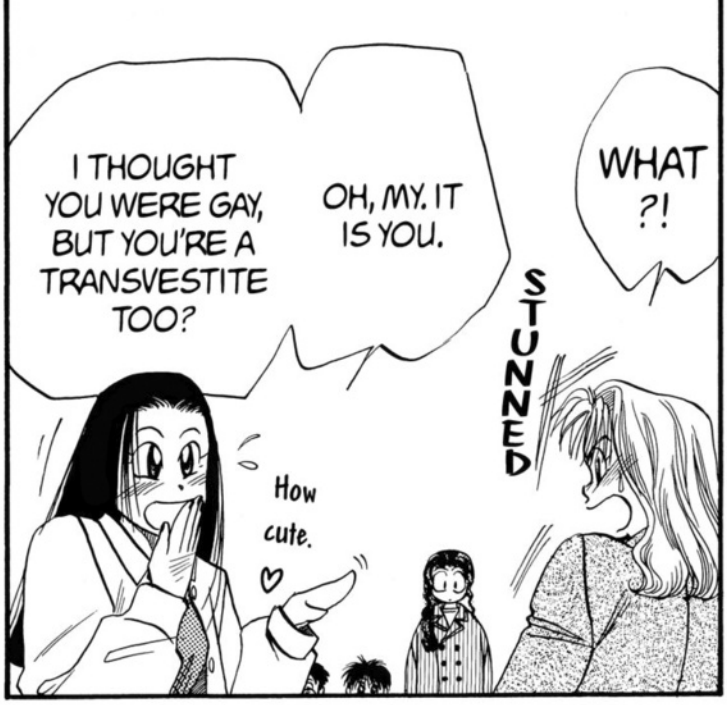
HMPH !!



YUSAKU, AKIRA, GET OVER HERE QUICK.
MITCHAN...


I'M BUSY HERE!!
WHAT DO YOU WANT, FREAK?
UM, SORRY TO INTERRUPT YOU, BUT...

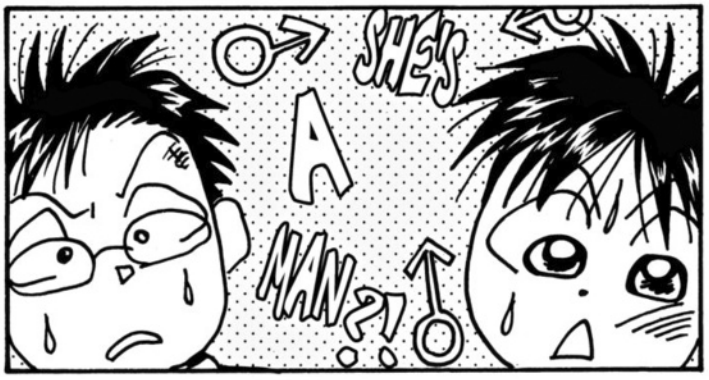
IF YOU MOVE...
...I'LL KILL YOU.

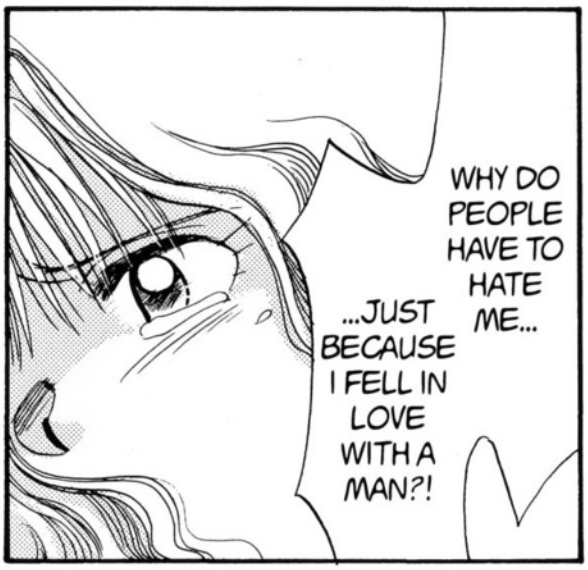

I THOUGHT YOU WERE GAY, BUT YOU'RE A TRANSVESTITE TOO?
OH, MY. IT IS YOU.
WHAT ?!
STUNNED
How cute.

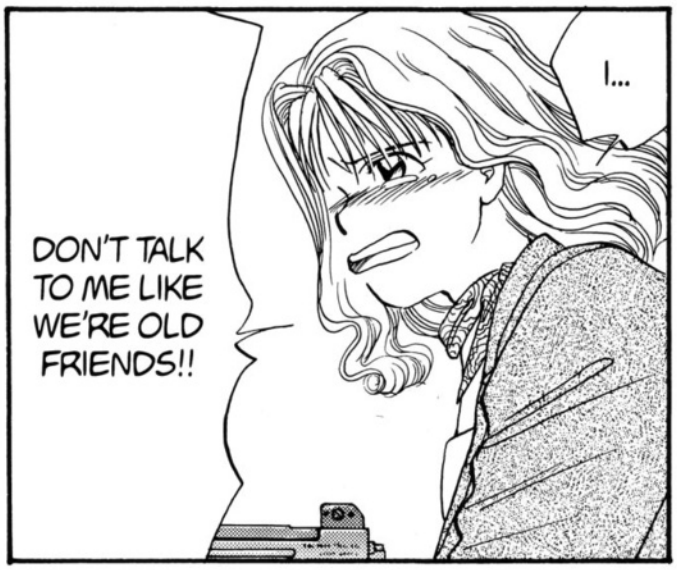
AREN'T YOU MICHIO WHO WORKS DOWN ON 2-CHOME? ARE THOSE BREASTS REAL?
FREAK?

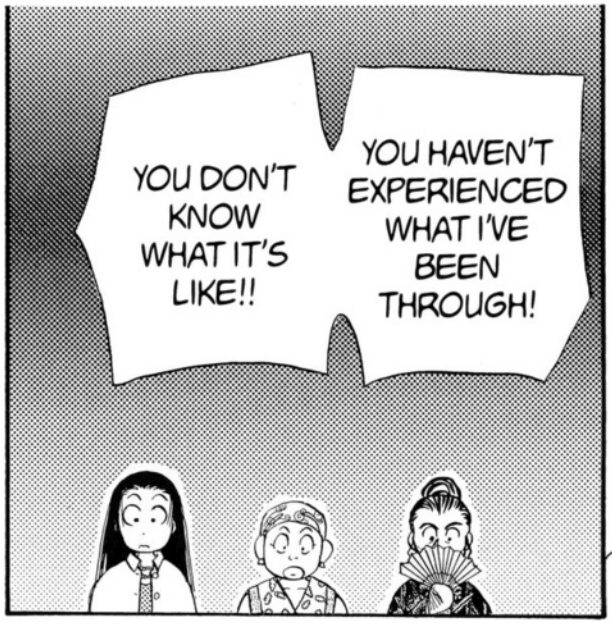
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MICHIO?
STOP!!
OOOH !!
AK AK AK AK AK AK

HUH?
YOU SHOULDN'T DO THINGS LIKE THIS.
NO. DON'T COME NEAR ME.


SHE'S A MAN?!

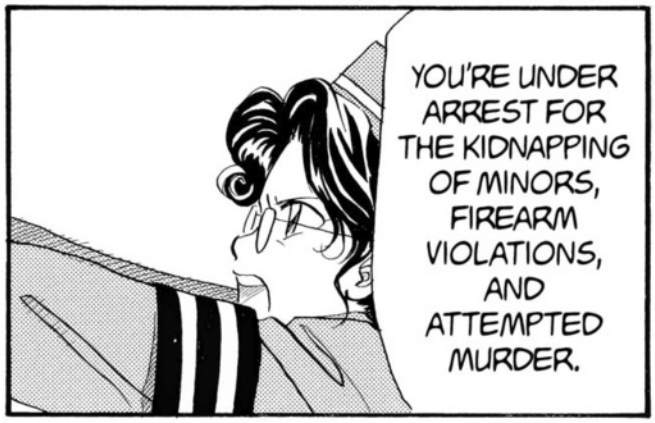

WHY DO PEOPLE HAVE TO HATE ME...
...JUST BECAUSE I FELL IN LOVE WITH A MAN?!

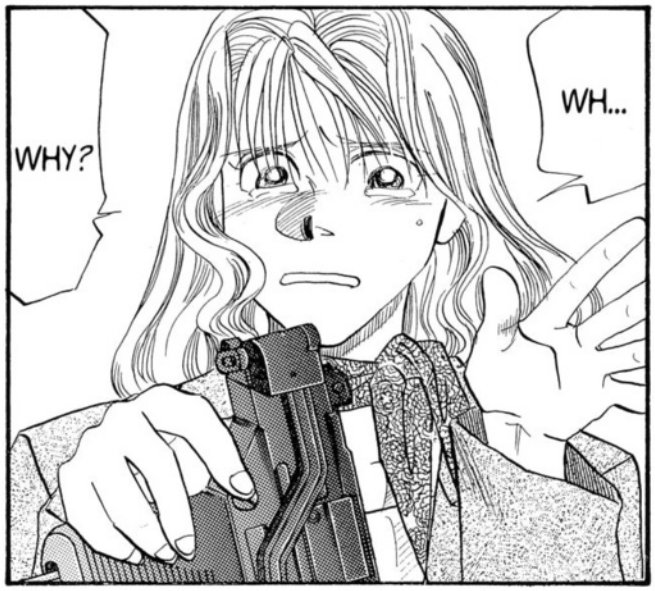

I...
DON'T TALK TO ME LIKE WE'RE OLD FRIENDS!!


YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE!!
YOU HAVEN'T EXPERIENCED WHAT I'VE BEEN THROUGH!

BEHIND YOU!!
MITCHAN!

THEY SPIT AT ME...
...AND LOOK AT ME LIKE I'M SOME-THING DIRTY.
WHY DO I HAVE TO GET PUNCHED AND KICKED?!


YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR THE KIDNAPPING OF MINORS, FIREARM VIOLATIONS, AND ATTEMPTED MURDER.

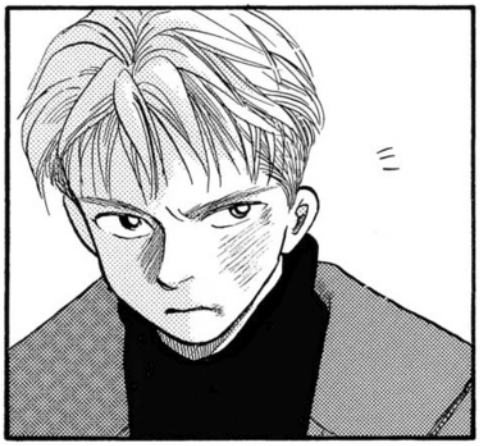

WHY?
WH...

DROP THE GUN AND PUT YOUR HANDS UP.
POLICE.

WHY? WE WERE JUST TRYING TO FIND HAPPINESS...
WHY DID YOU HAVE TO RUIN IT?
KLANG...
WUNN
WUNN

THAT JERK.
HE TRIED TO KEEP ALL THE MONEY FOR HIMSELF.

KOTA YABE CONFESSED TODAY.
THE MONEY WAS FOUND UNDER THE FLOOR AT HIS PLACE OF WORK.



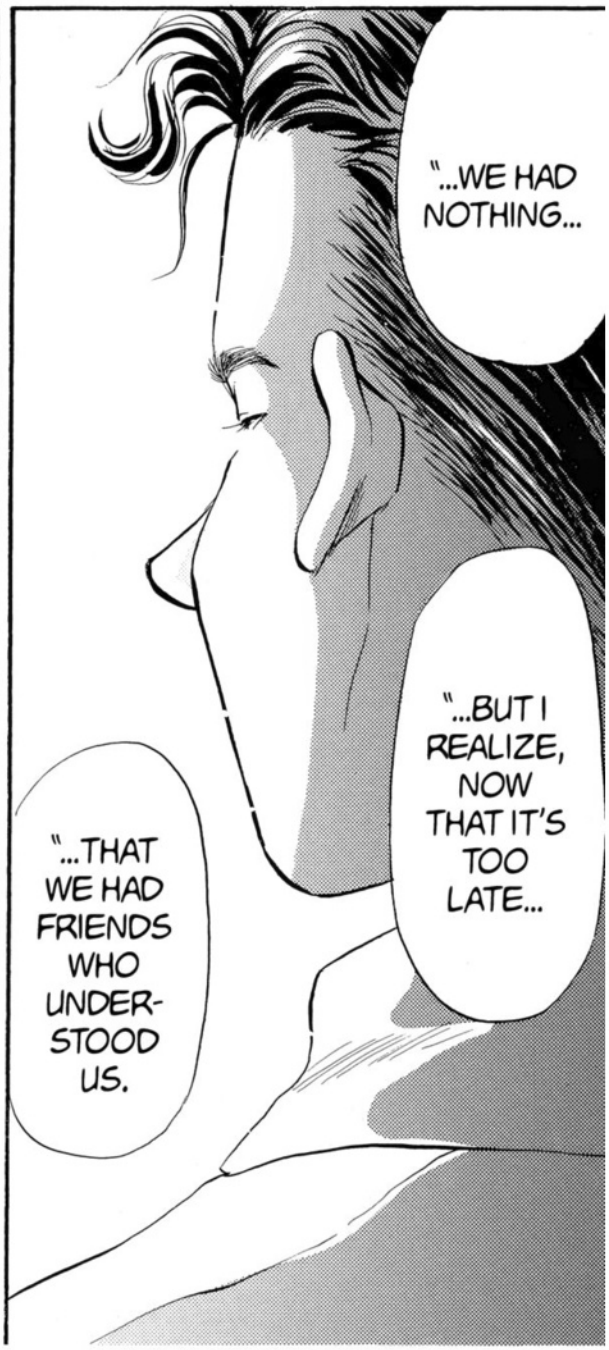
"IF WE USED THIS MONEY...
...WE'D HAVE TO HIDE OUT FOREVER.
"WE SAID...

"I GOT TO THINK-ING...
...WHILE I WAS BEING CHASED BY THE COPS.

KOTA WANTED ME TO GIVE YOU A MESSAGE.

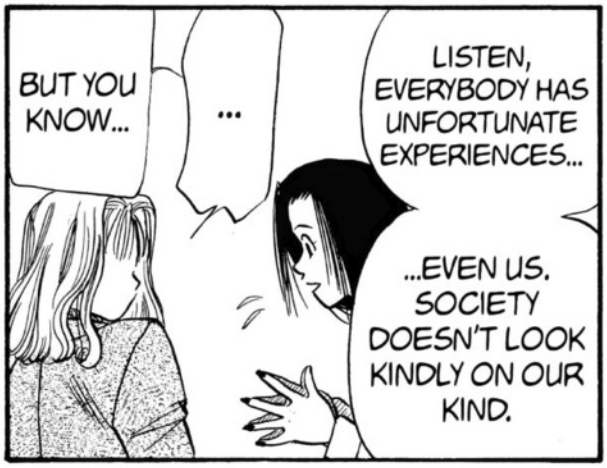
...
"WHEN WE GET OUT OF PRISON ...
...LET'S ALL GET TOGETHER AGAIN...

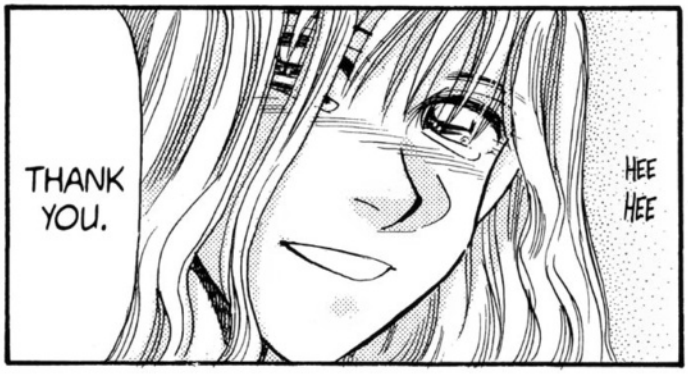
"...AND HAVE A DRINK."


"...WE HAD NOTHING...
"...BUT I REALIZE, NOW THAT IT'S TOO LATE...
"...THAT WE HAD FRIENDS WHO UNDER-STOOD US.

TMP
TMP
TMP
MICHIO...

...
HE ALSO SAID THE BANK ROBBERY WAS HIS IDEA, AND HE ASKED US TO GO EASY ON YOU.


BUT YOU KNOW...
...
LISTEN, EVERYBODY HAS UNFORTUNATE EXPERIENCES...
...EVEN US. SOCIETY DOESN'T LOOK KINDLY ON OUR KIND.


THANK YOU.
HEE HEE

I SEE...

MINO-RU!!
BWAZA !!

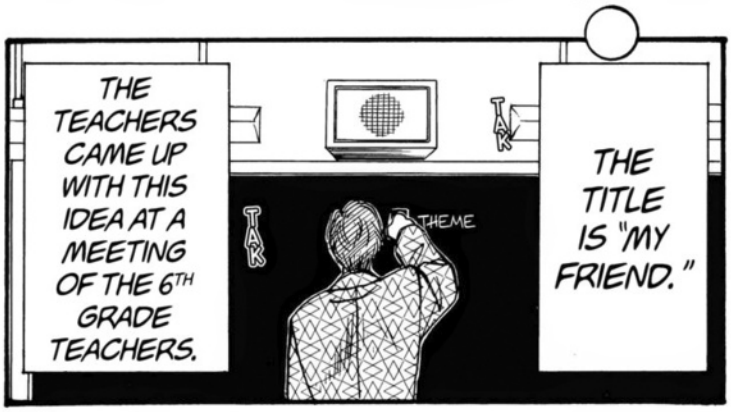
WE'RE FABULOUS MISTER LADIES.
WE HAVE CONFI-DENCE IN OUR-SELVES!!
...THIS IS THE ONLY LIFE I'VE GOT!!

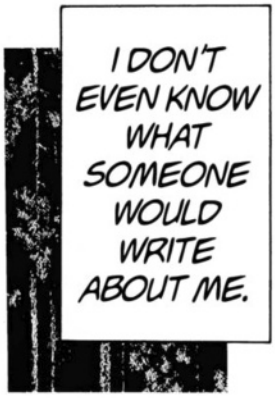
Chapter 47 / The End

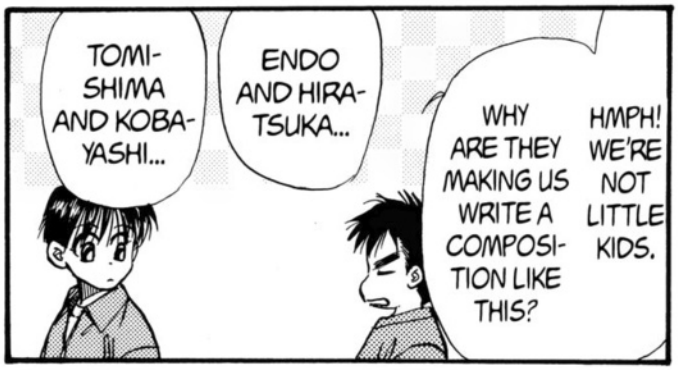
@
BABY & Me
Chapter 48
OG

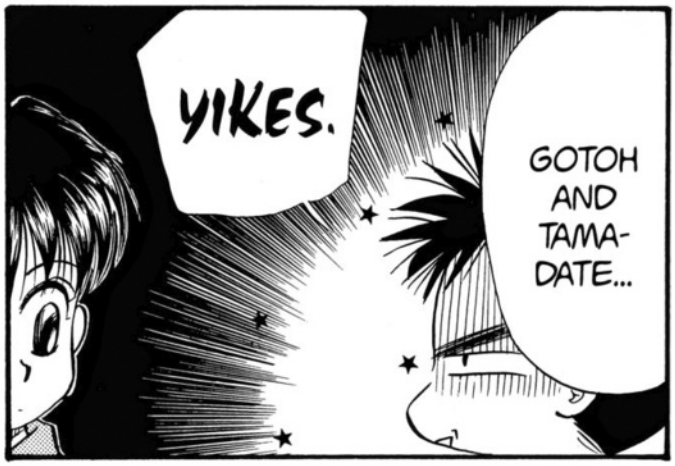
HMM ...
WHY DOES HE WANT US TO WRITE ABOUT SOMEONE WE DON'T KNOW ALL THAT WELL?
WHAT SHOULD I WRITE?

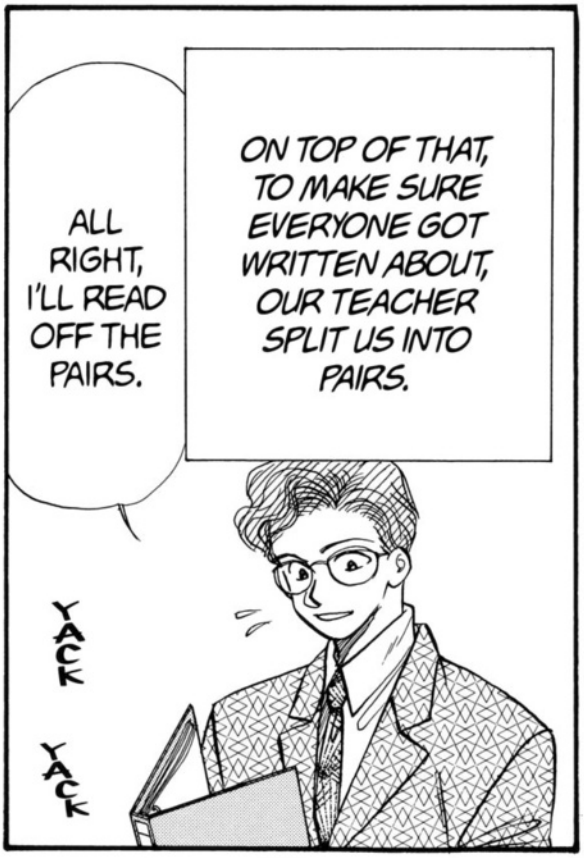
HOW DO I WRITE ABOUT ANOTHER PERSON?

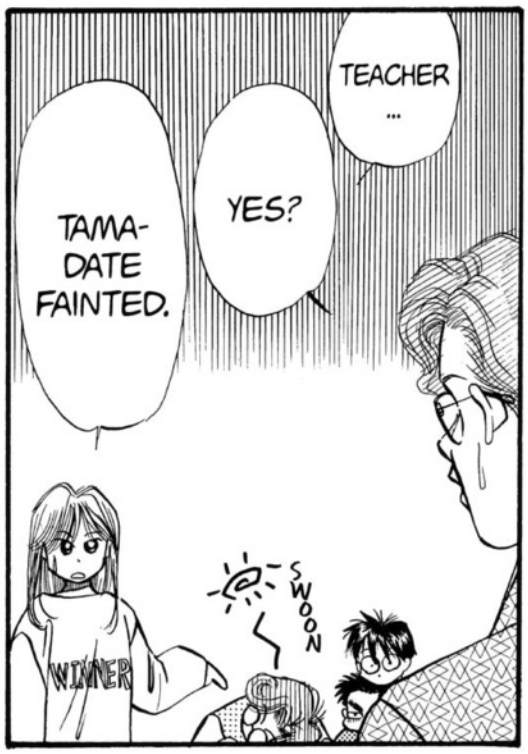

THE TEACHERS CAME UP WITH THIS IDEA AT A MEETING OF THE 6TH GRADE TEACHERS.
TAK
THEME
TAK
THE TITLE IS "MY FRIEND."

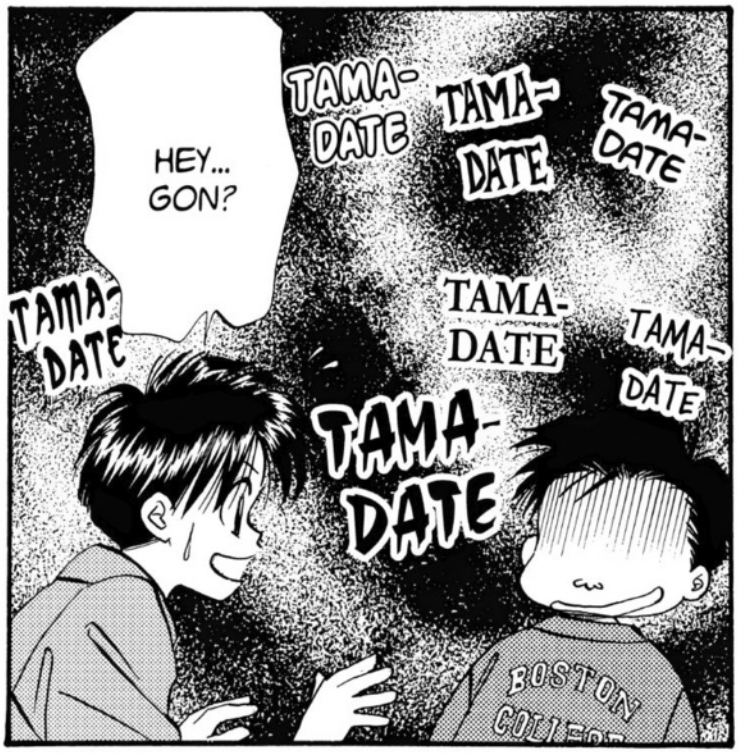

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT SOMEONE WOULD WRITE ABOUT ME.


TOMI-SHIMA AND KOBA-YASHI...
ENDO AND HIRA-TSUKA...
WHY ARE THEY MAKING US WRITE A COMPOSI-TION LIKE THIS?
HMPH! WE'RE NOT LITTLE KIDS.


YIKES.
GOTOH AND TAMA-DATE...


ALL RIGHT, I'LL READ OFF THE PAIRS.
ON TOP OF THAT, TO MAKE SURE EVERYONE GOT WRITTEN ABOUT, OUR TEACHER SPLIT US INTO PAIRS.
YACK YACK


TEACHER ...
YES?
TAMA-DATE FAINTED.
SWOON
WINNER


HEY... GON?
TAMA-DATE
TAMA-DATE
TAMA-DATE
TAMA-DATE
TAMA-DATE
TAMA-DATE
TAMA-DATE
BOSTON

...JI...
...I?!

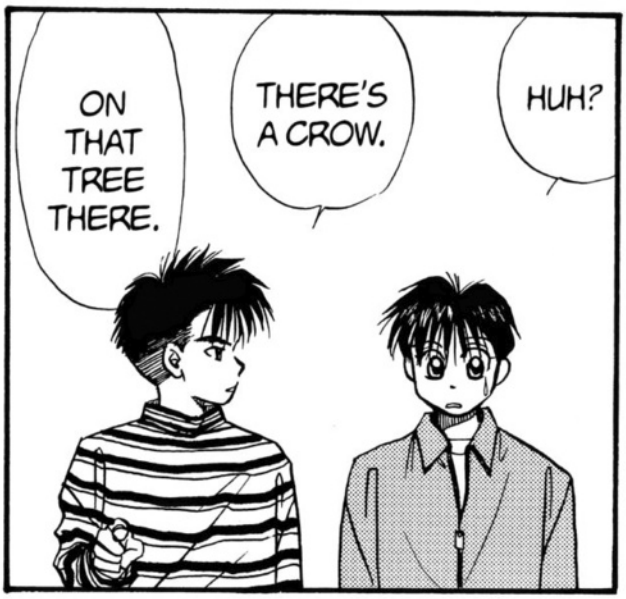
FU
...

AND MY PARTNER IS...
ENOKI AND FUJII...
...SOMEONE I NEVER WOULD HAVE PICKED.

WUZZ

WUZZ
WUZZ

FUJII ISN'T AN EASY PERSON TO GET TO KNOW.


ON THAT TREE THERE.
THERE'S A CROW.
HUH?

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT, FUJII?
TMP
TMP

A CROW.

OH.
I SEE THAT, BUT...

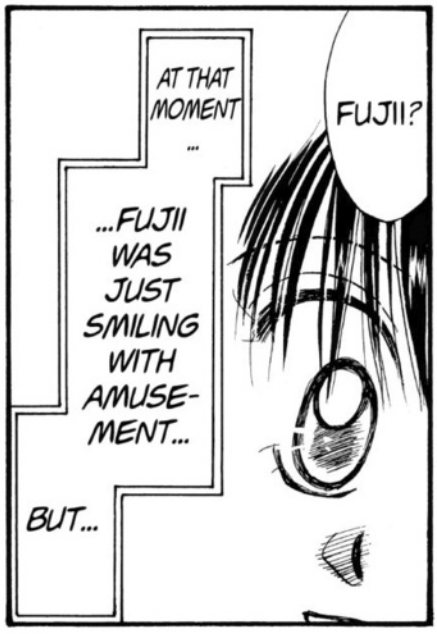
UM... IS IT AN INTER-ESTING CROW?
HUH?
NOT REALLY, I JUST NOTICED IT WAS THERE.

...
KAW

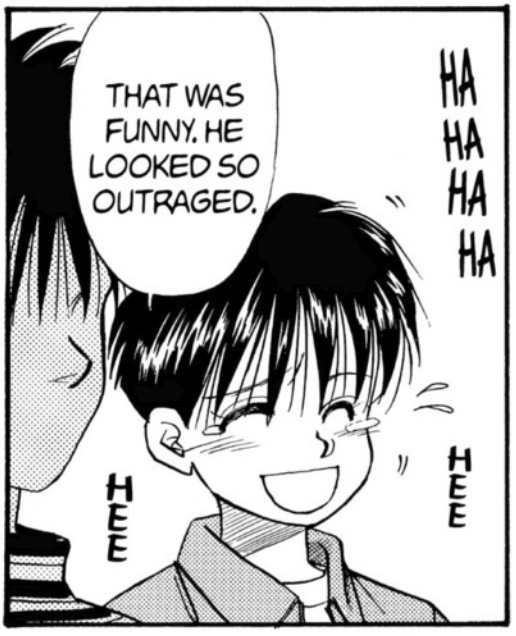
FWAP FWAP FWAP FWAP

FWAP
FWAP

IT SLIPPED.


FUJII?
AT THAT MOMENT ...
...FUJII WAS JUST SMILING WITH AMUSE-MENT...
BUT...

WE WERE WATCHING AT JUST THE RIGHT MOMENT...
... WEREN'T WE?


THAT WAS FUNNY. HE LOOKED SO OUTRAGED.
HA HA HA HA
HEE
HEE

Fujii comes from a family of six siblings.

IN THE END...

Author's Note: Part 4

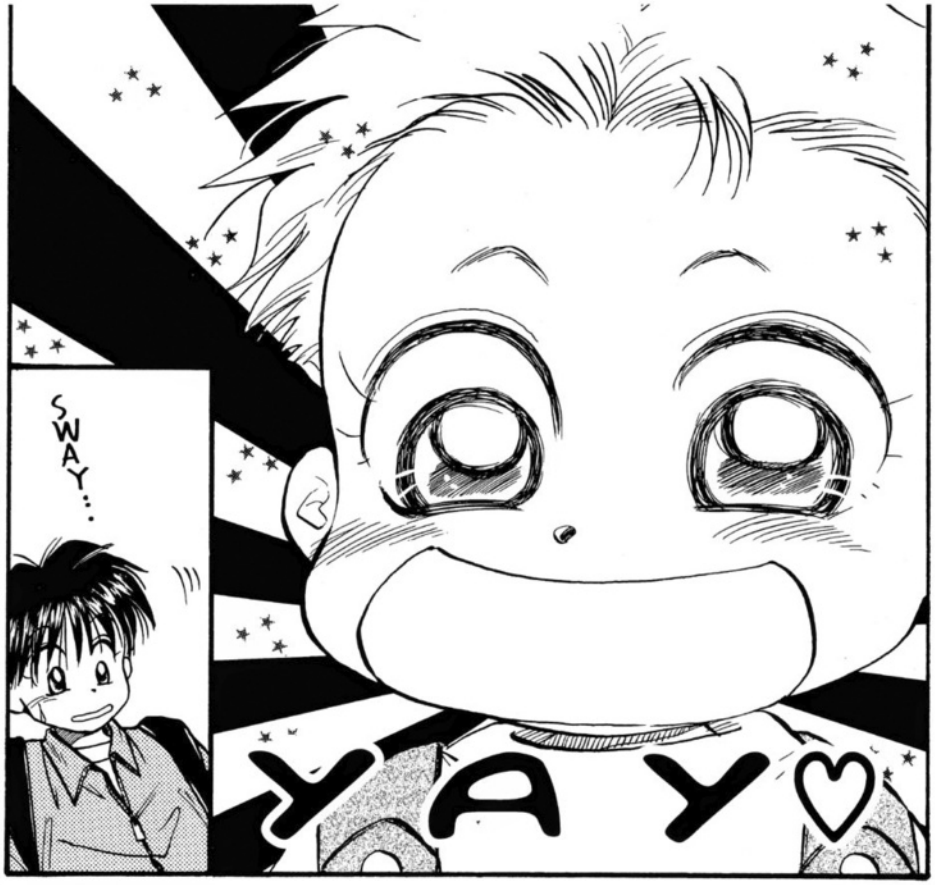
Because I didn't show Kota's face, I received lots of letters from readers who want to know what he looked like. I think not showing his face made Kota more interesting. But you still want to see him, don't you? ô ô

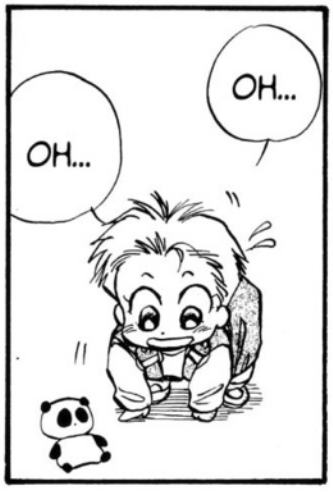
Notes on Chapter 47

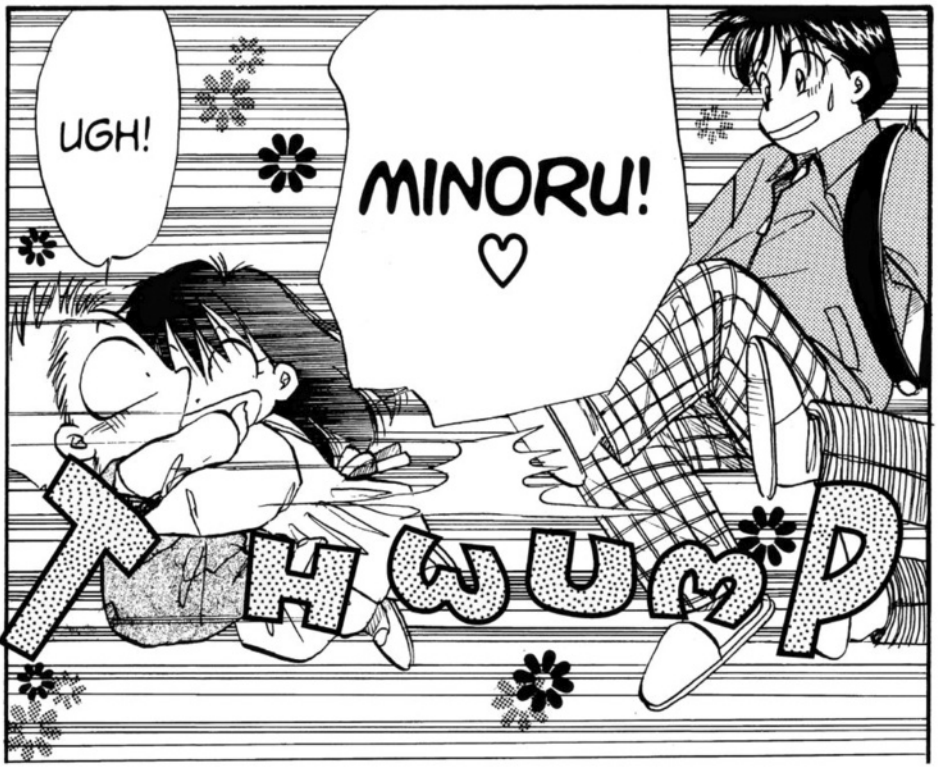
① Actually, Mitchan was a girl at first, but Yusaku, Kota, and Akira were all struggling with problems and I couldn't think of one for Mitchan. So I decided to make her a boy, which would also give me a reason for having those transvestites in the story.

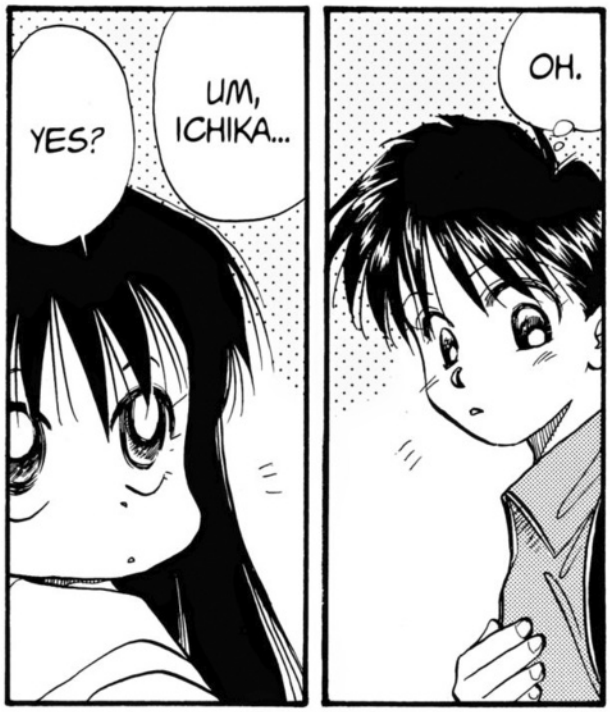
② The story was too long, so we had to pare it down by more than ten pages.

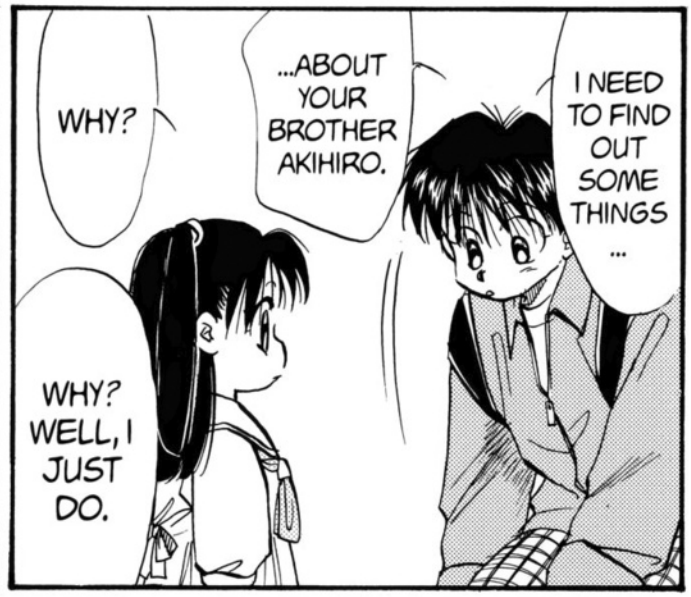
But I did try to make it fit by drawing each panel smaller, you know? Sob



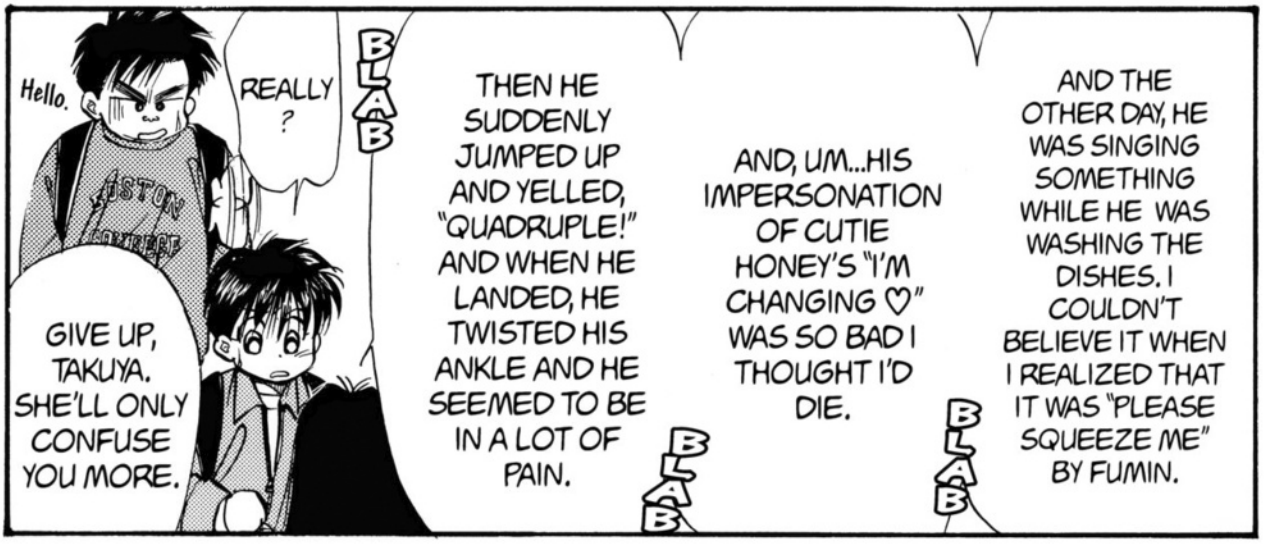


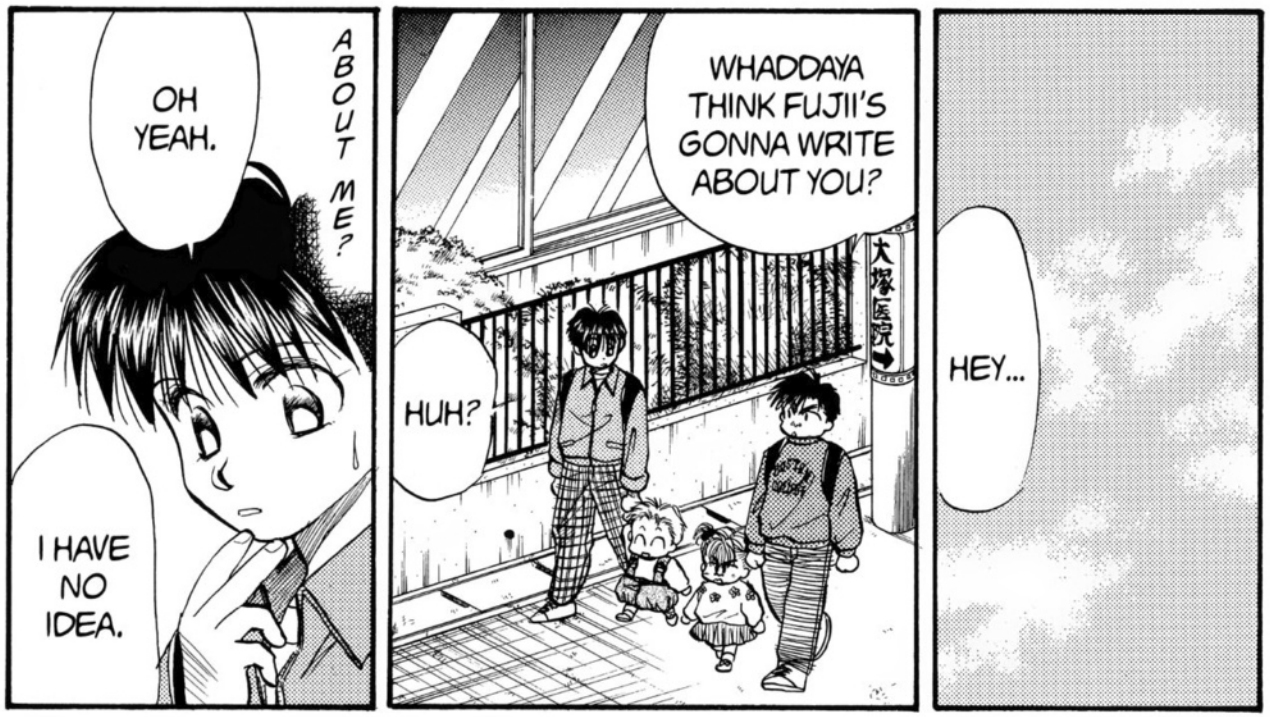


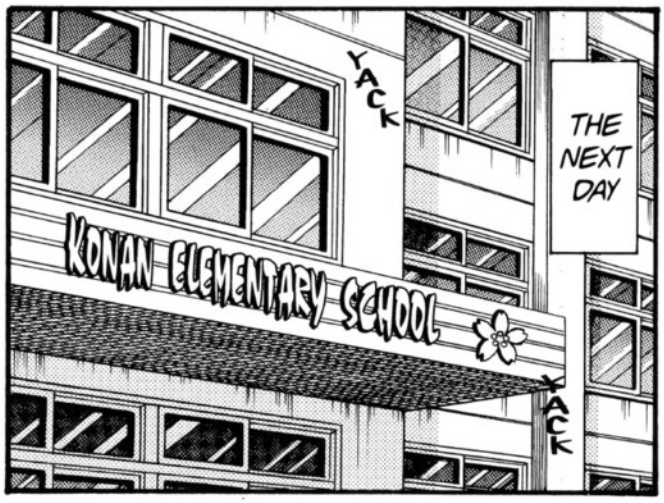




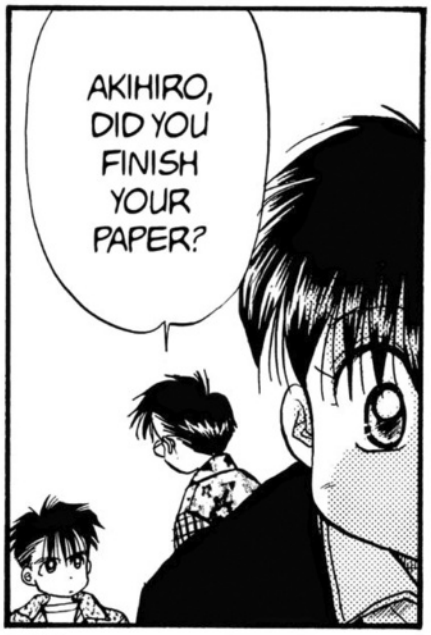
As for types of games, that's unknown.

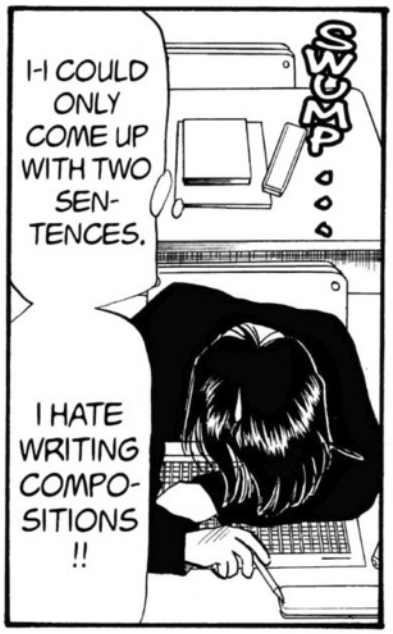



ABOUT ME?
OH YEAH.
I HAVE NO IDEA.
WHADDAYA THINK FUJII'S GONNA WRITE ABOUT YOU?
HUH?
大塚医院
HEY...


YACK
THE NEXT DAY
KONAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
YACK

BUT YOU'LL PROBABLY WRITE SOMETHING BAD ABOUT HIM, GON.
IF THAT TAMADATE WRITES ANYTHING BAD ABOUT ME, HE'LL BE SORRY.


AKIHIRO, DID YOU FINISH YOUR PAPER?


I-I COULD ONLY COME UP WITH TWO SEN-TENCES.
SWCMP
I HATE WRITING COMPO-SITIONS !!

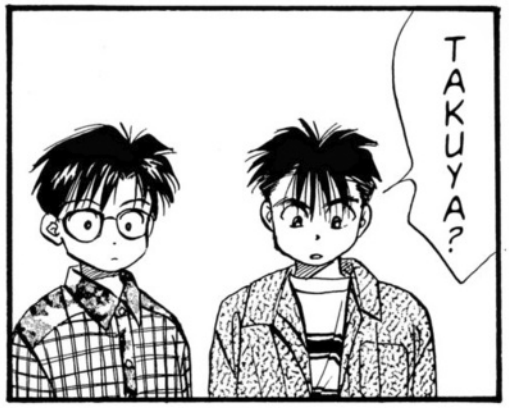
...
WUZZ
WUZZ

TAKUYA ...
HUH?
BA BUMP
WHY'S HE READING IT?
HMM ...
FWIP
LET ME SEE.
PART OF IT.
KLUNK
HITOSHI!! HEY!!
TMP TMP TMP
HEY, THIS IS PRETTY GOOD.
Takuya Enoki is the president of our class.
(omitted)
It is easy to see that he is a good person.
TAKE IT EASY.
I WANNA READ YOURS, THEN.
"TAKUYA ENOKI IS..."
WHAP
LOOK.
FWUP

THIS MAKES ME SOUND WEIRD.
...

OH NO...

He is always good-natured and easy to talk to.
He always seems to get good scores on his tests, so I think he must have been born smart.


TAKUYA?

THEN I GUESS YOU WROTE SOMETHING BETTER ABOUT ME.
GRR

THIS ISN'T ME!!
FUJII, YOU HAVE TO REWRITE THIS!

I JUST DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO WRITE ABOUT YOU.

IS THAT WHAT ICHIKA TOLD YOU YESTERDAY?

UM, WELL ...
Ichika told him!

ONLY TWO SENTENCES ?
ACK!
"AKIHIRO FUJII IS ONE OF SIX KIDS. HE ENJOYS PLAYING GAMES."
WHAM

OH YEAH? WELL, GUESS WHAT...
...

YOU'RE ALWAYS SO PERFECT!
THE MORE I WROTE, THE PHONIER IT GOT!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOU EITHER.

FINE. I'LL REWRITE IT.
...
SWUP

YOU'RE THINKING TOO HARD.
SIMPLE?
IT'S NOT LIKE THERE'S A PRIZE INVOLVED. WE'RE NOT EVEN BEING GRADED ON IT.
WHY DON'T YOU JUST RELAX AND WRITE SOMETHING SIMPLE?
THAT'S TRUE, BUT...

NUTS?
NUTS?

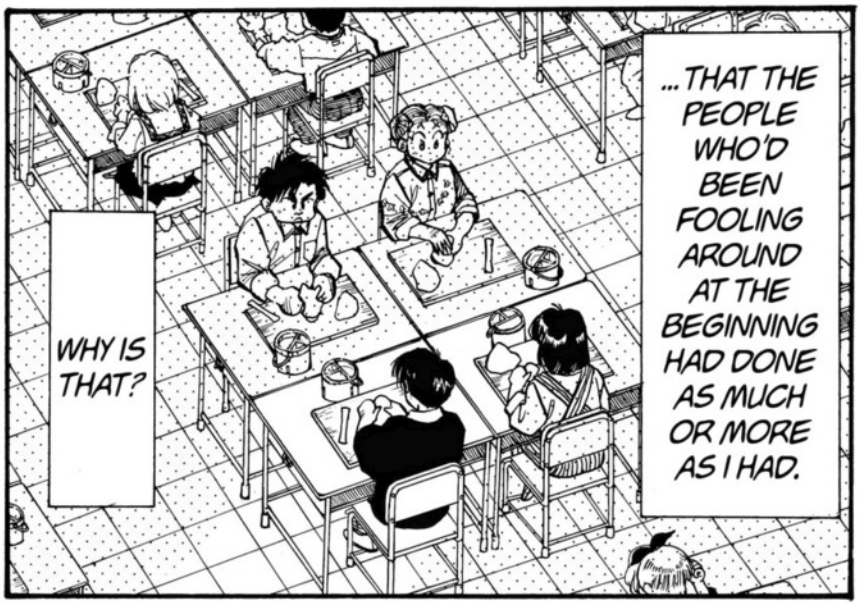
AKIHIRO JUST WANTS TO GET IT DONE...
WHAT?
YEAH ...
I GET IT!! THAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOU TWO.
...AND YOU'RE TRYING FOR PERFEC-TION.

HUH?
TAKUYA ...

MORIGUCHI MAKES SENSE, BUT...
...I STILL DON'T LIKE WHAT FUJII WROTE ABOUT ME.
YOU'RE THINKING SO HARD...
...YOU'RE MISSING THE BIG PICTURE.
I'M NOT SAYING THAT AKIHIRO'S WAY IS RIGHT...
...BUT MAYBE YOU SHOULDN'T TAKE IT QUITE SO SERI-OUSLY.
ARITHMETIC
ARTS
LANGUAGE
SOCIAL STUDIES
ARTS
MATH
SCIE
KRK
PHEW ...
A HAND
RIGHT OR LEFT, IT DOESN'T MATTER.
IN THE NEXT TWO HOURS, I WANT EVERY-ONE TO MAKE A HAND.
A HAND
I GUESS DIFFERENT PEOPLE DO THINGS DIFFERENTLY.
I PUT A LOT OF EFFORT INTO THIS STUPID COMPOSITION.
HEH HEH HEH
THUMP
THUMP

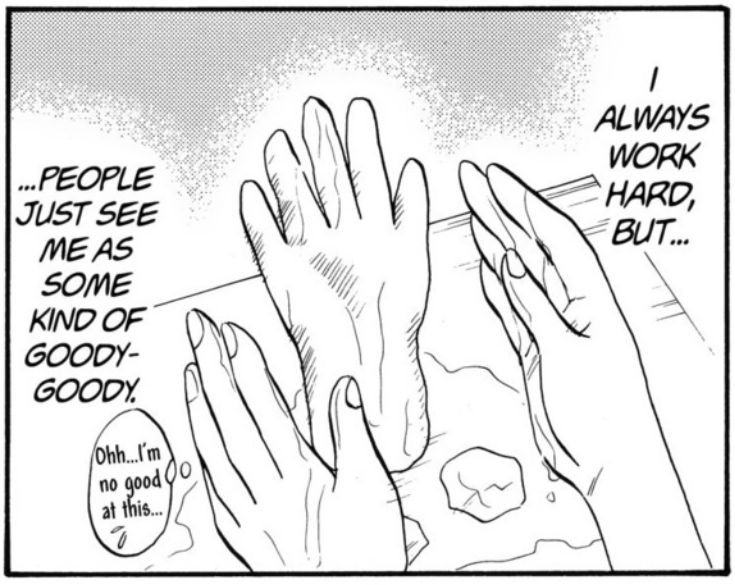
...I KNEW I WASN'T GOOD AT THIS, SO I CONCENTRATED AND WORKED FAST WITHOUT SAYING A WORD.
I...
ha ha ha ha
A snake...
WOING
THROB
THROB

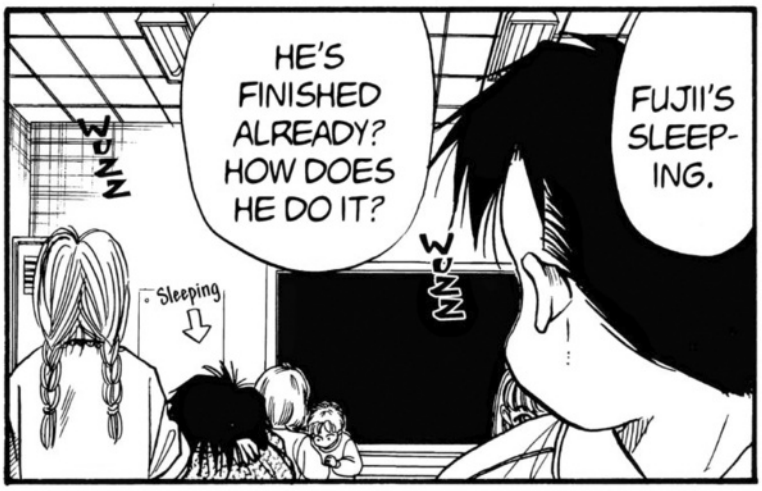
I'M NOT GOOD AT THIS.
ART...
STARE
SPLAT


WHY IS THAT?
...THAT THE PEOPLE WHO'D BEEN FOOLING AROUND AT THE BEGINNING HAD DONE AS MUCH OR MORE AS I HAD.

THEN I SUDDENLY NOTICED...

DON'T GET SO WORKED UP!! LOOK AT MY HAND!!
IT LOOKS WEIRD, BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW TO FIX IT.
PAT
PAT


I ALWAYS WORK HARD, BUT...
...PEOPLE JUST SEE ME AS SOME KIND OF GOODY-GOODY.
Ohh...I'm no good at this...


HE'S FINISHED ALREADY? HOW DOES HE DO IT?
FUJII'S SLEEP-ING.
WUZZ
WUZZ
Sleeping

HUH?

ALL RIGHT, LET'S START CLEANING UP.
LINE YOUR HANDS UP IN THE BACK OF THE ROOM.
A HAND
YES, SIR...

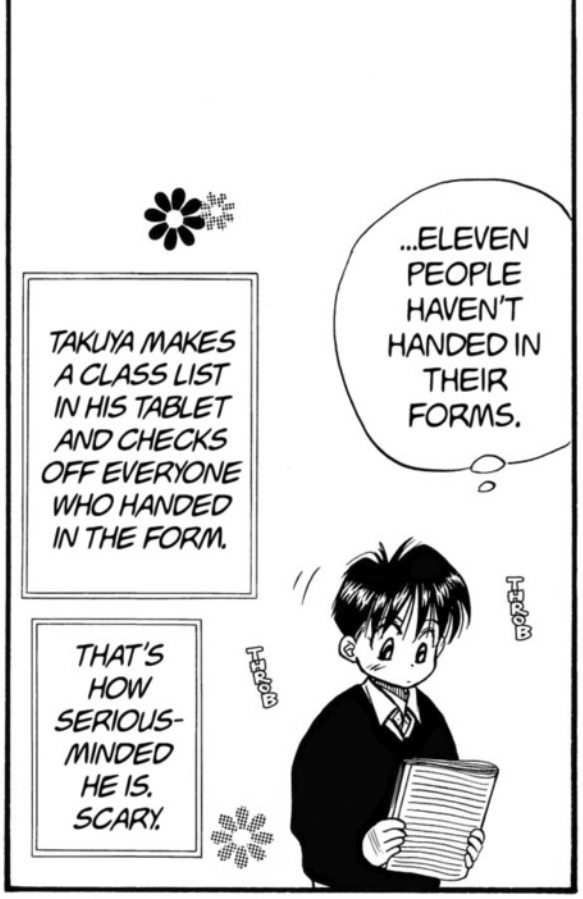
HUH? HOW COME ?
WELL ... FUJII'S SO GOOD AT ART.

...
HOW LUCKY ...

OH.
MINE'S NO GOOD.
BLINK

WOW ...
HE'S REALLY GOOD.
They're just elementary school kids, after all.

WUZZ
WUZZ
TUP

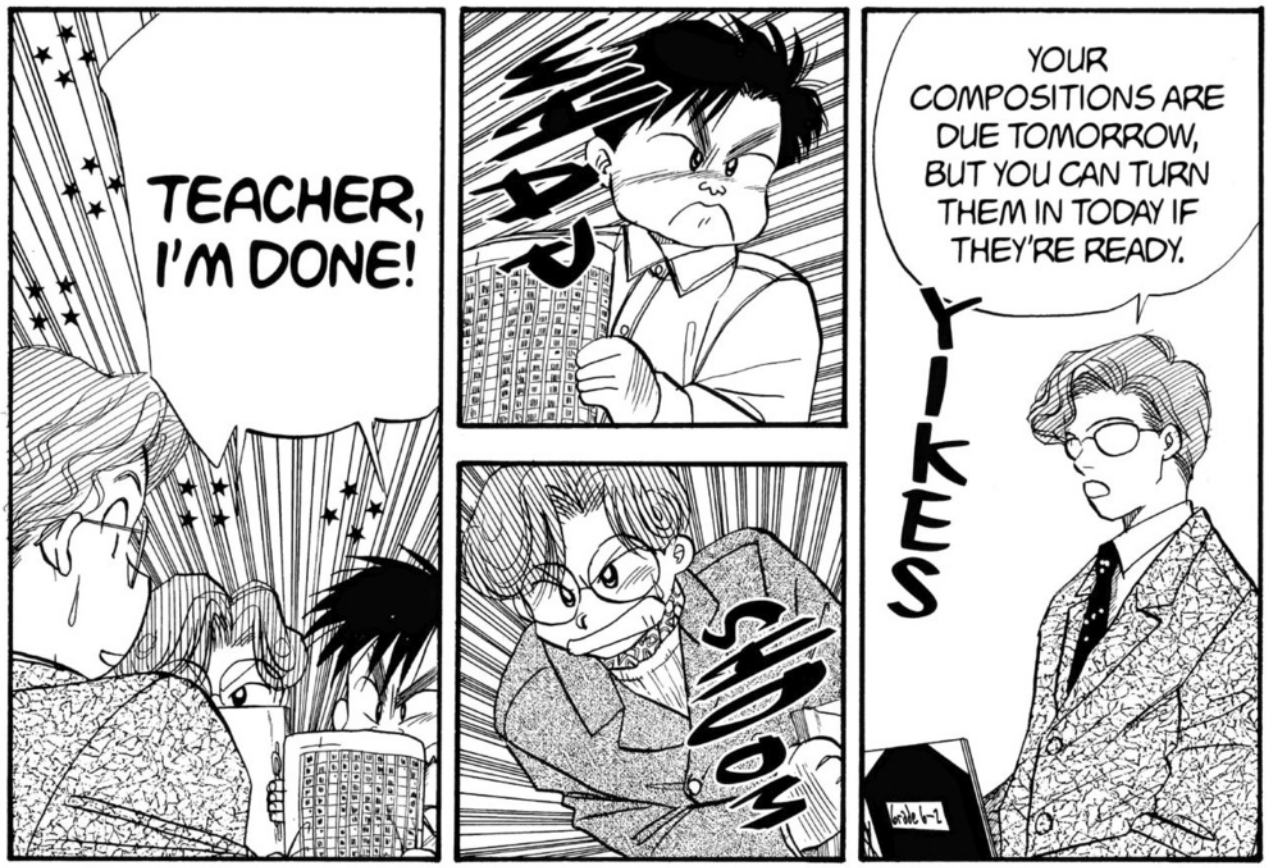


Tamadate is a boy built on lies. Even his curly bangs are phony.

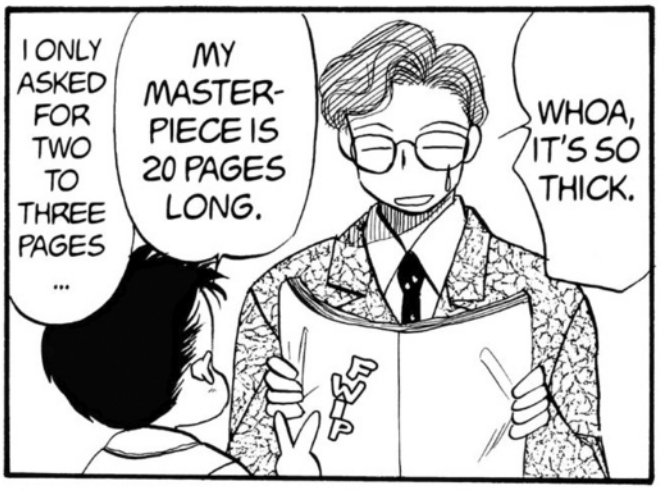
Whenever he is about to lose in P.E., he fakes a sprained ankle. But he is such a bad actor that all I can do is hold my stomach and laugh.

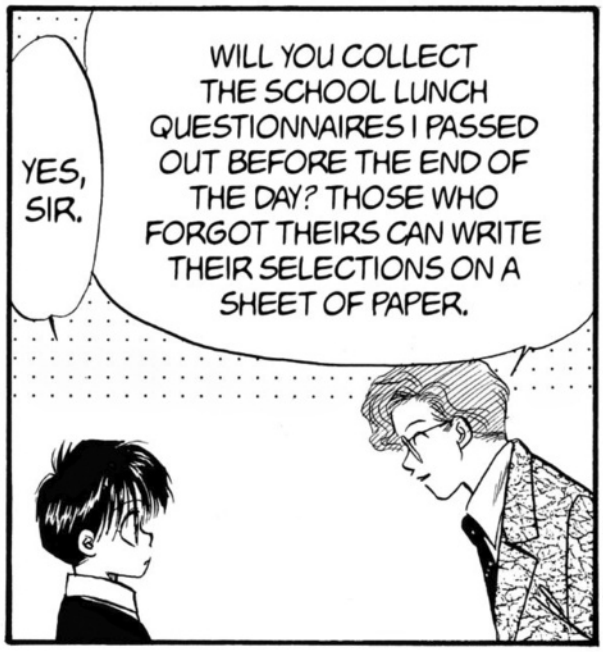
I hear he wants to be a TV star when he grows up, but his singing is so bad, again, all I can do is hold my stomach and laugh. (The rest is omitted.)

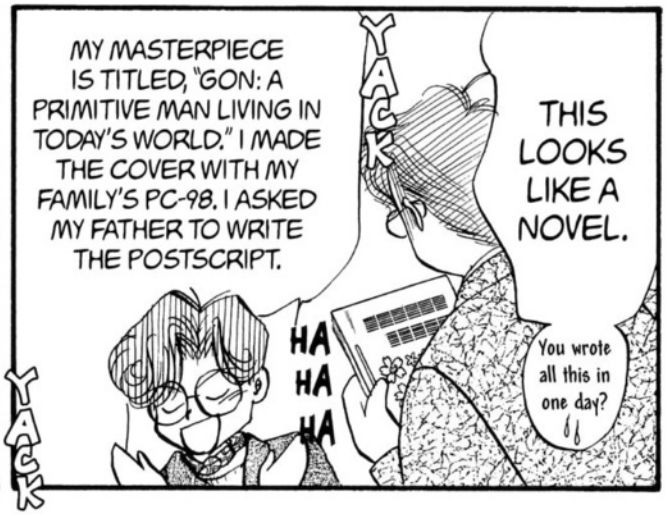
Amazingly, descendants of Java Man still exist, and one of them lives right here in Kumanoi City. His name is Tadashi Gotoh, nicknamed "Gon." His intelligence is close to that of modern man, but the primitive genes are still quite evident in his appearance. The gorilla-like face, the short legs... (The rest is omitted.)

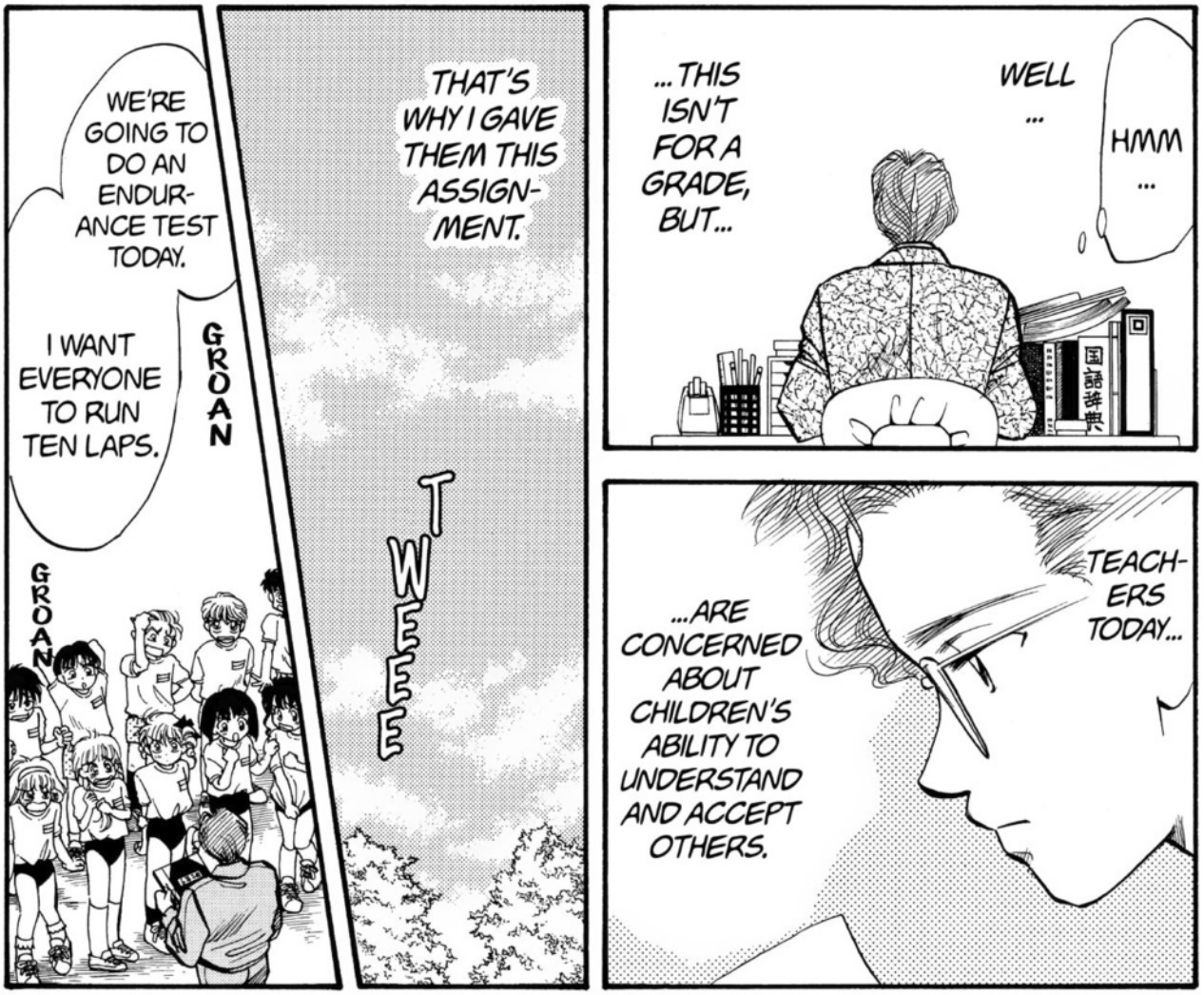

TEACHER, I'M DONE!
YOUR COMPOSITIONS ARE DUE TOMORROW, BUT YOU CAN TURN THEM IN TODAY IF THEY'RE READY.
YIKES

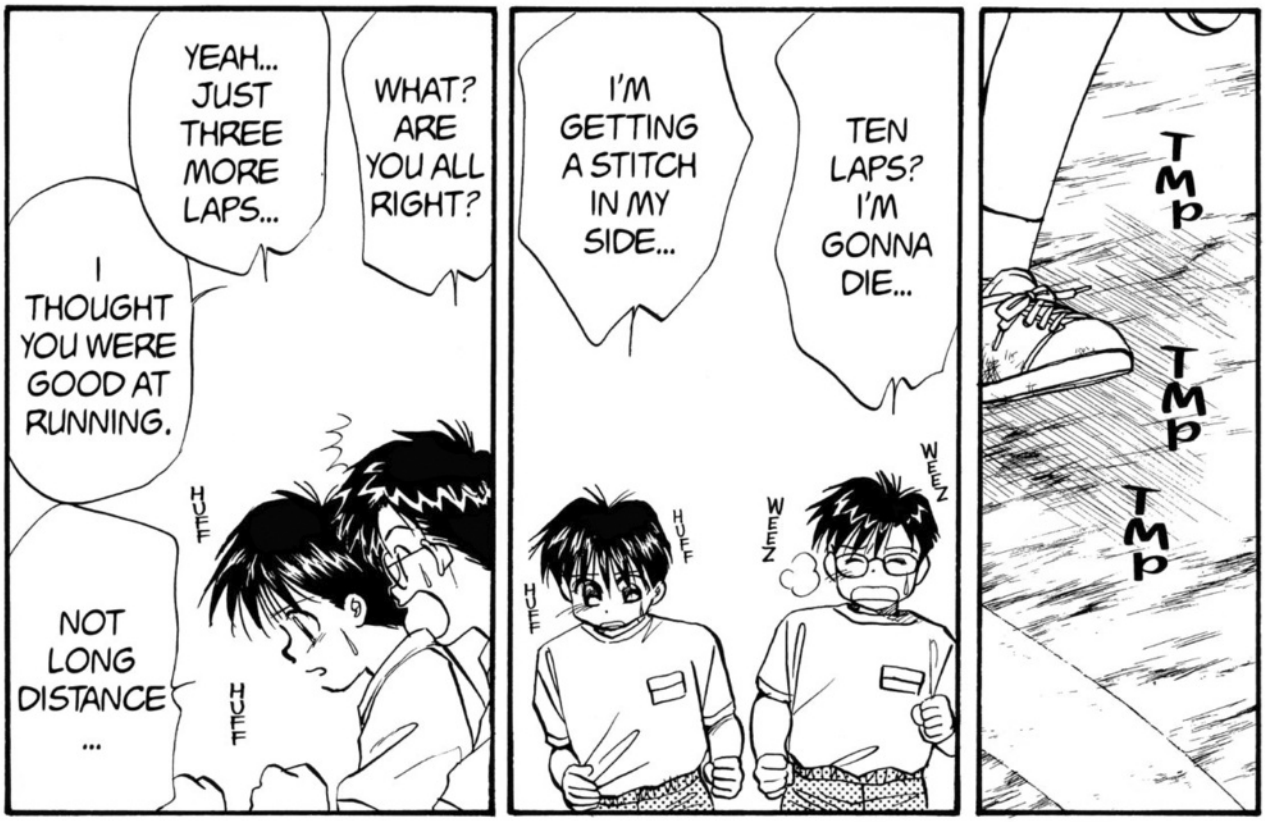
WIP
GACK
OH, TA-KUYA ...


I ONLY ASKED FOR TWO TO THREE PAGES ...
MY MASTER-PIECE IS 20 PAGES LONG.
WHOA, IT'S SO THICK.


YES, SIR.
WILL YOU COLLECT THE SCHOOL LUNCH QUESTIONNAIRES I PASSED OUT BEFORE THE END OF THE DAY? THOSE WHO FORGOT THEIRS CAN WRITE THEIR SELECTIONS ON A SHEET OF PAPER.


MY MASTERPIECE IS TITLED, "GON: A PRIMITIVE MAN LIVING IN TODAY'S WORLD." I MADE THE COVER WITH MY FAMILY'S PC-98. I ASKED MY FATHER TO WRITE THE POSTSCRIPT.
YACK
THIS LOOKS LIKE A NOVEL.
HA HA HA
YACK
You wrote all this in one day?


WE'RE GOING TO DO AN ENDUR-ANCE TEST TODAY.
I WANT EVERYONE TO RUN TEN LAPS.
GROAN
GROAN
THAT'S WHY I GAVE THEM THIS ASSIGN-MENT.
TWEEEE
...THIS ISN'T FOR A GRADE, BUT...
WELL ...
HMM ...
国語辞典
...ARE CONCERNED ABOUT CHILDREN'S ABILITY TO UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT OTHERS.
TEACH-ERS TODAY...

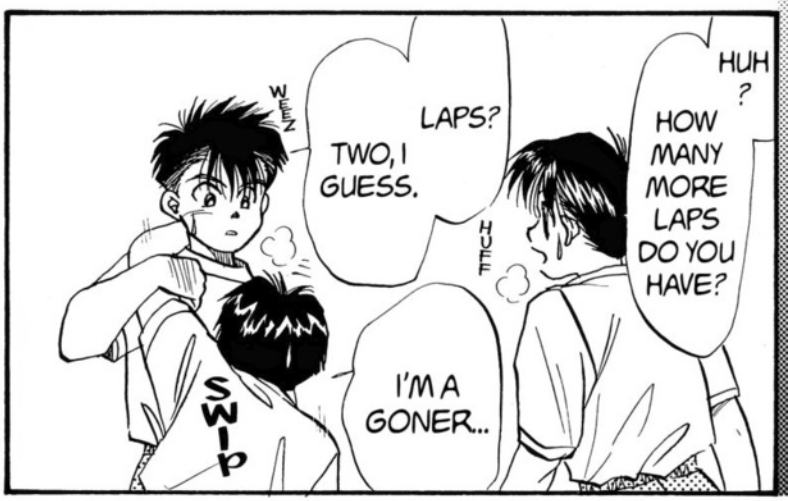

YEAH... JUST THREE MORE LAPS...
WHAT? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOOD AT RUNNING.
NOT LONG DISTANCE ...
HUFF
HUFF
I'M GETTING A STITCH IN MY SIDE...
TEN LAPS? I'M GONNA DIE...
HUFF
HUFF
WEEZ
WEEZ
TMP
TMP
TMP

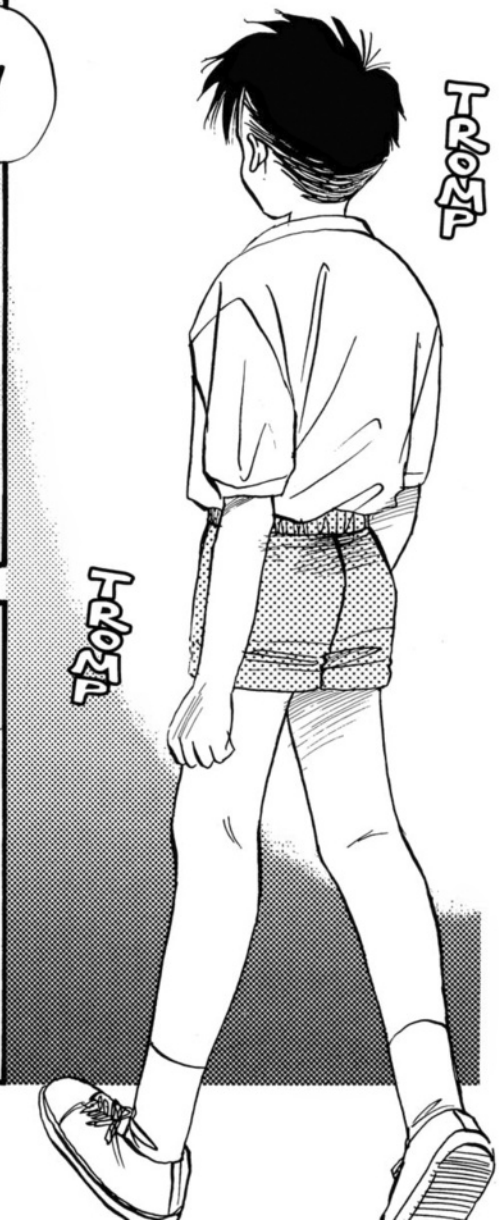
...
WHAT? HE'S ONLY RUN THREE LAPS?
BUT TAMADATE STILL HAS SEVEN LAPS TO GO.
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

ANOTHER FIVE AND A HALF FOR ME.
HOW MANY MORE LAPS, GON?
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE WE MET LIKE THIS?
HEY... TAKUYA ...
HUF
HUF
WEEZ
WEEZ

I MIGHT AS WELL. I'M ALMOST DONE.
OUCH ...
AKIHIRO!! WHAT'RE YOU WALKING FOR?
WHAP
HUFF
HUFF

!!
HUFF


WEEZ
LAPS?
TWO, I GUESS.
HUFF
HUH ?
HOW MANY MORE LAPS DO YOU HAVE?
I'M A GONER...
SWIP


TROMP
TROMP

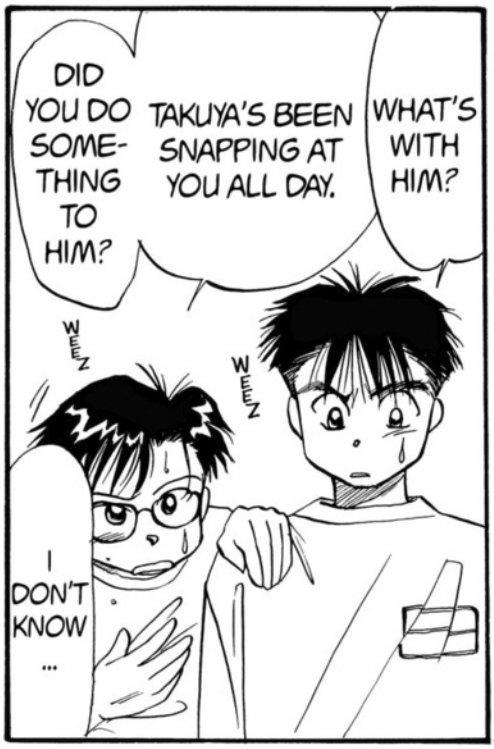
FINISHING FAST DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING. YOU JUST HAVE TO WAIT FOR EVERYBODY ELSE.
DON'T KILL YOURSELF. JUST WALK.
HUFF
WEEZ

YEAH ...
BUT I THINK IT'LL GO AWAY IF I KEEP RUNNING...
HUFF

HUH?
WHY ARE YOU HOLDING YOUR SIDE? DOES IT HURT?
WEEZ
HUFF

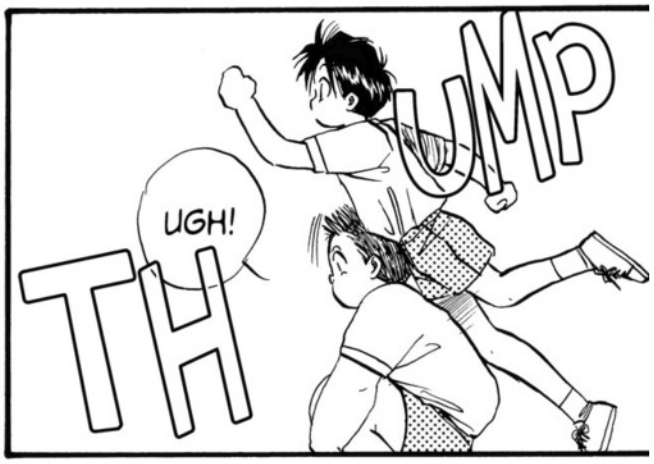
I'M...
I'M NOT LIKE YOU, FUJII.

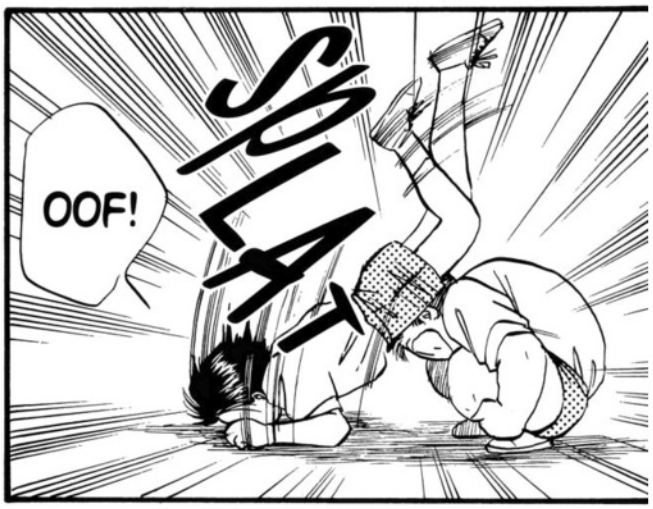
...
HUFF


DID YOU DO SOME-THING TO HIM?
TAKUYA'S BEEN SNAPPING AT YOU ALL DAY.
WHAT'S WITH HIM?
WEEZ
WEEZ
I DON'T KNOW ...

TMP TMP TMP
HUFF

IT'S JUST NOT MY DAY.





SHWOOSH

GASP

...

BUT...THE END-OF-THE-DAY MEETING'S ABOUT TO START!
WHAT'LL I DO?!

WHAT TIME IS IT?!
IT'S ALL RIGHT. FIFTH PERIOD JUST ENDED.

UM... WHERE... AM I?
OH, YOU'RE AWAKE.
YOU'RE IN THE NURSE'S OFFICE.

I COL-LECTED THEM FOR YOU.

I DIDN'T COLLECT THE QUESTION-NAIRES!!

WHAT?

WUZZ
WUZZ

HUH
HUH

THE TEACHER ASKED ME TO.
I was standing right in front of him.
HUFF
WHY?

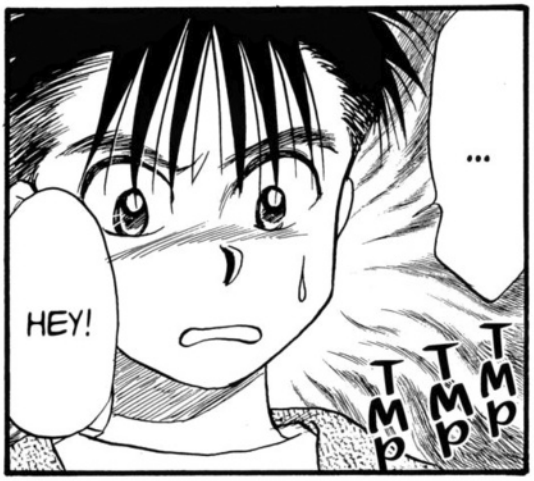
I COL-LECTED THEM.
YOU HEARD ME.

WHEN-EVER I...
?

THAT'S ALL OF THEM.
UM...
THANKS.

DID EVERYBODY HAND THEM IN?
I DON'T KNOW. BUT THERE ARE ELEVEN HERE.
ELEVEN ...
HUH
HUH

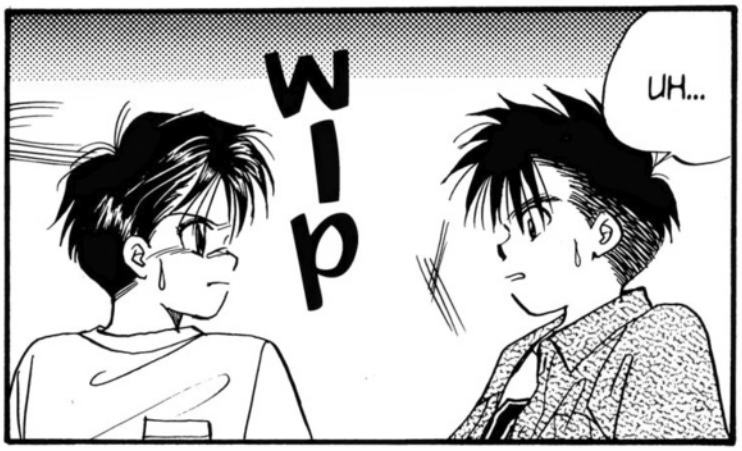
WIP


HEY!
...
TMP
TMP
TMP

NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I REMIND THEM...
...SOMEBODY ALWAYS FORGETS.

YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!!
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?! YOU'VE BEEN IN A BAD MOOD ALL DAY! WHAT DID I DO TO YOU?!
TMP TMP TMP TMP

HOLD ON A MINUTE ...
...ENOKI.
TMP
TMP
TMP
YACK
YACK


UH...
WIP

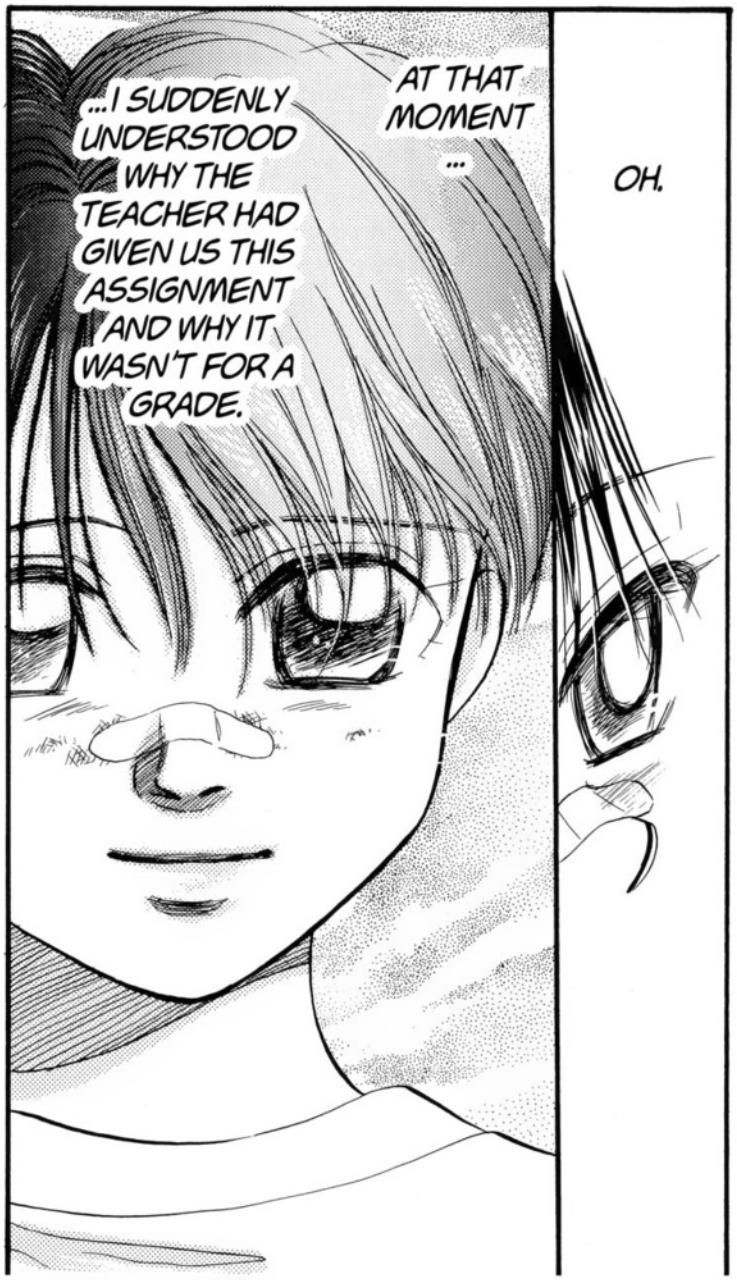
I CAN'T DO ANY-THING!
YOU SHOULD BE THE CLASS PRESI-DENT.
...BUT YOU CAN DO EVERY-THING?!
HOW COME YOU DON'T DO ANYTHING...
I'M NOT SUCH A GOOD BOY.
YOU AND I ARE SO DIFFER-ENT.
I GET GOOD SCORES ON MY TESTS BECAUSE I STUDY HARD THE NIGHT BEFORE.
...SOMETIMES I GET SO FRUSTRATED!!
UH-OH...
WHEN I LOOK AT YOU...

EN...
ANYWAY...
I ENVY YOU.
THAT STUFF YOU WROTE DIDN'T SOUND LIKE ME AT ALL.
I HAVE TO WORK EXTRA HARD JUST TO KEEP UP.
IT MADE ME SOUND WEIRD...LIKE I WASN'T HUMAN OR SOMETHING.
I ENVY YOU MORE!!
WHY?!
ENVY...
...ME?
...THINGS ARE EASY FOR ME?
YOU REALLY THINK...
WELL ...
HUH?

ANYWAY, IT LOOKS TO ME LIKE YOU'RE THE ONE WHO CAN DO ANYTHING.
VEEN

BUT I THOUGHT THERE WAS SOMETHING WRONG WHEN I WAS WRITING THAT COMPOSITION.
ME?
GULP

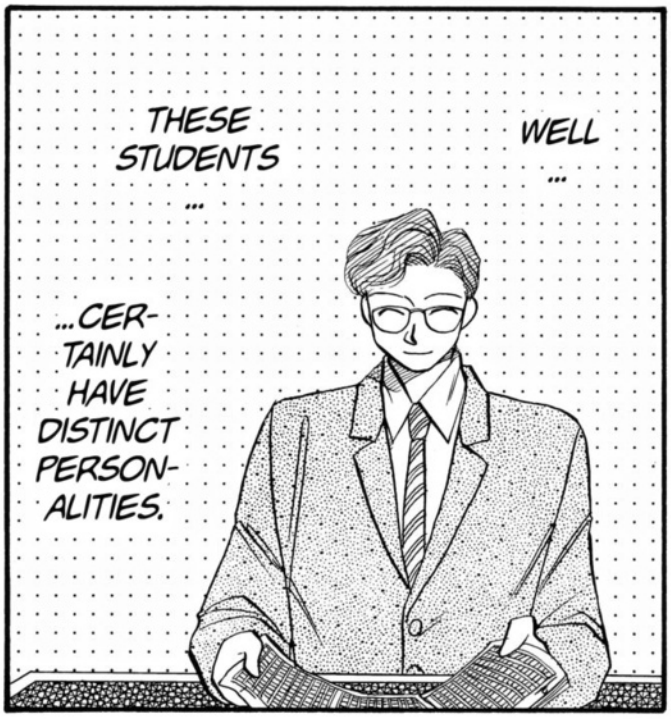
YOU'RE WRONG.
FUJII?
IF I WAS THAT GOOD AT THINGS, I'D TRY A LOT HARDER.
IT MAY LOOK LIKE I'M NOT TRYING HARD, BUT THAT'S JUST THE WAY I AM!!
SWUMP
HUFF


OH.
AT THAT MOMENT ...
...I SUDDENLY UNDERSTOOD WHY THE TEACHER HAD GIVEN US THIS ASSIGNMENT AND WHY IT WASN'T FOR A GRADE.

IT'S KINDA FUNNY, HUH?
HEH

WE MAKE JUDGMENTS ABOUT PEOPLE ALL THE TIME, BUT WHEN WE FIND OUT HOW OTHERS SEE US, WE GET UPSET.
?

WHAT'S THAT SUP-POSED TO MEAN?
I GUESS YOU'RE HUMAN AFTER ALL, FUJII.
BUT I STILL ENVY FUJII.


THESE STUDENTS ...
WELL ...
...CER-TAINLY HAVE DISTINCT PERSON-ALITIES.

STAFF ROOM

But to an outsider, they just look like a couple of carefree kids.

THEN LET'S GO TO THE SUPER-MARKET AND BUY SOME.

POT SNICKOS! ♡

Takuya Enoki works hard at everything.

MINORU, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO EAT TONIGHT?

UM...POT SNICKOS.

POT STICK-ERS?

I think he works hardest at taking care of his little brother.

I was jealous of Akihiro Fujii because I thought he could do anything.

I thought he was cool and wise, but I found out he's not so different from everybody else.

DARN. DARN.

WHY AREN'T THEY GOING IN?

STOP THAT.

IT'S A WASTE OF OUR NATURAL RE-SOURCES.

6-2

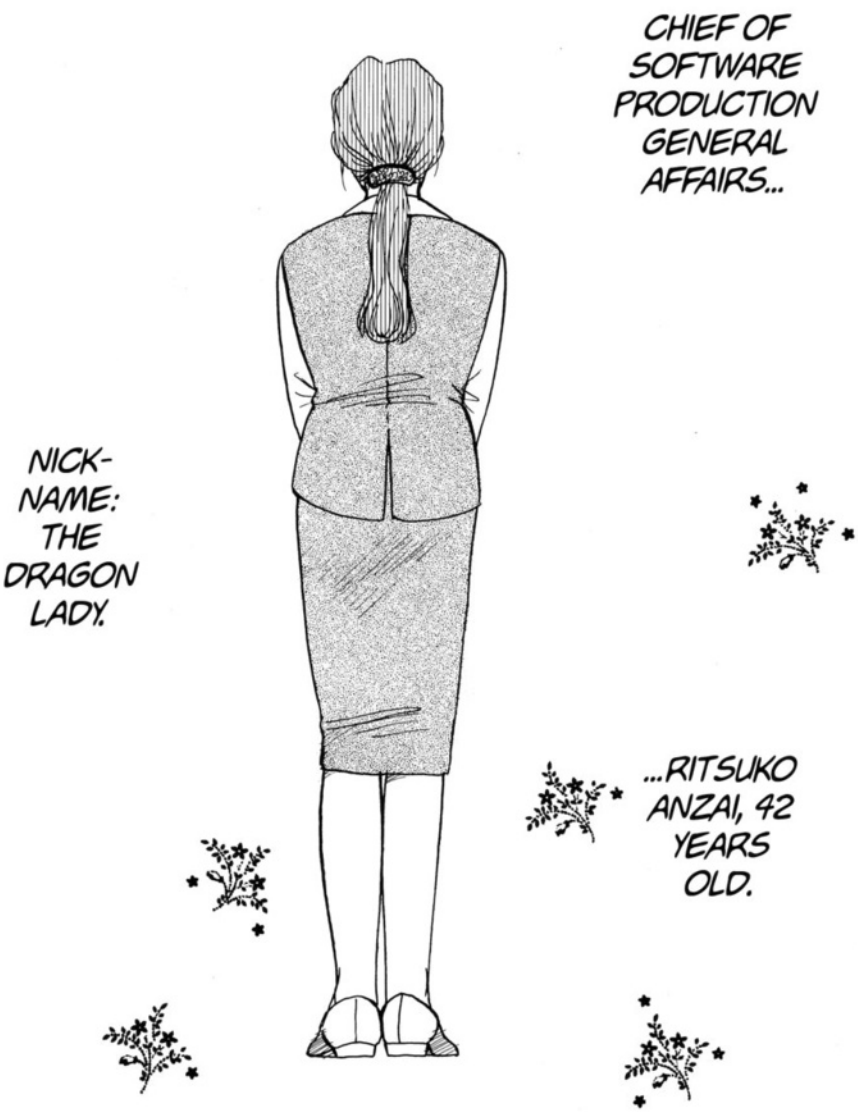
MAYBE CHILDREN ARE BETTER...

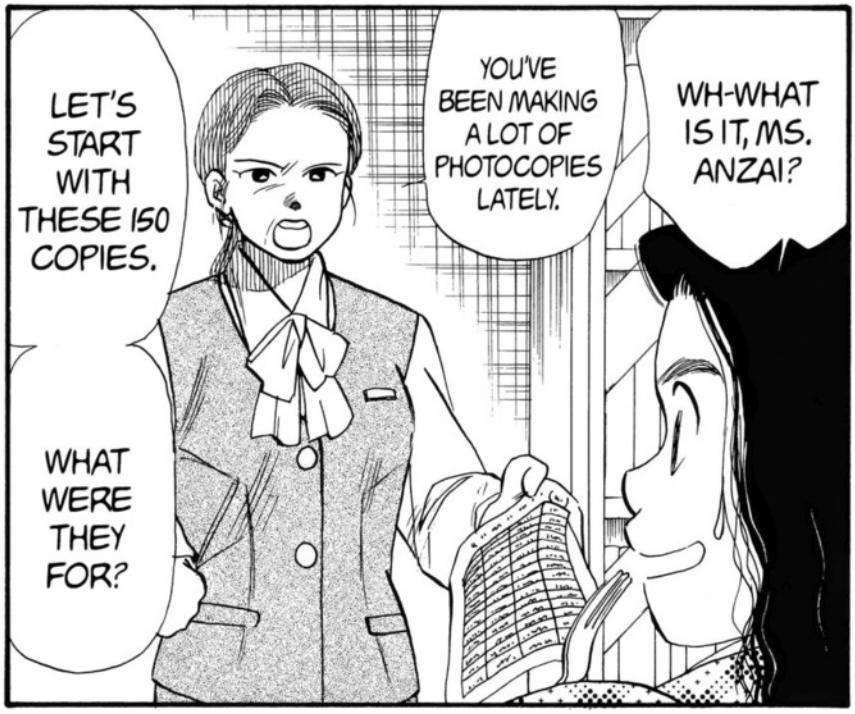
...AT READING PEOPLE THAN ADULTS ARE.

Chapter 48 / The End

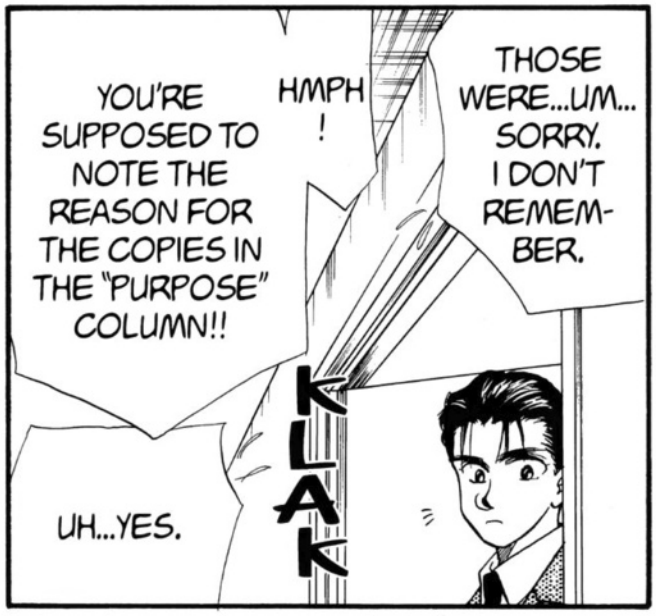
BABY & Me
Chapter 49

EDOMAE!!
WUZZ
WUZZ

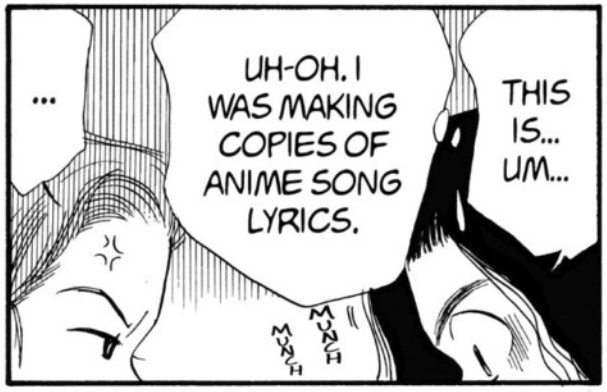

CHIEF OF SOFTWARE PRODUCTION GENERAL AFFAIRS...
NICK-NAME: THE DRAGON LADY.
...RITSUKO ANZAI, 42 YEARS OLD.


LET'S START WITH THESE 150 COPIES.
WHAT WERE THEY FOR?
YOU'VE BEEN MAKING A LOT OF PHOTOCOPIES LATELY.
WH-WHAT IS IT, MS. ANZAI?

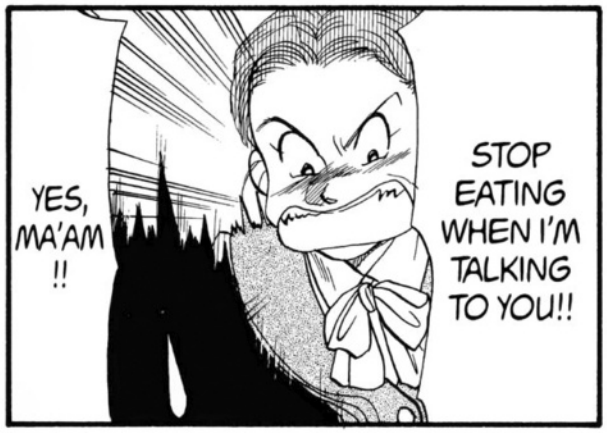
GULP...

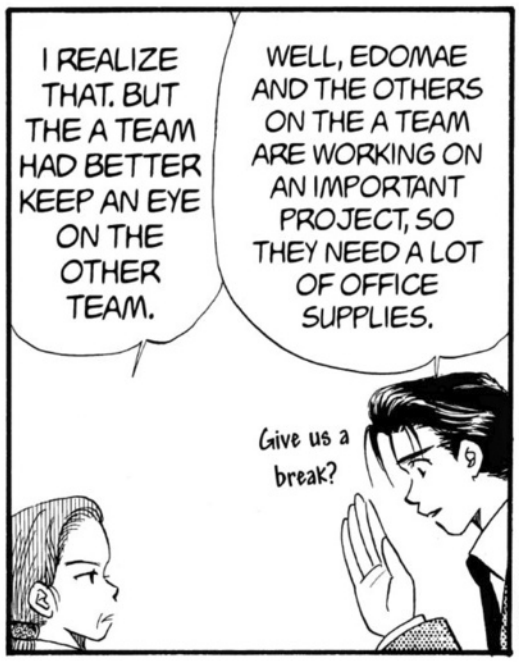

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO NOTE THE REASON FOR THE COPIES IN THE "PURPOSE" COLUMN!!
HMPH!
THOSE WERE...UM... SORRY. I DON'T REMEMBER.
KLAK
UH...YES.

AND WHAT ABOUT THESE EIGHT?
I SEE.
I WAS PREPARING SOME BLUEPRINTS FOR A CLIENT.
MUNCH
MUNCH


...
UH-OH. I WAS MAKING COPIES OF ANIME SONG LYRICS.
THIS IS... UM...
MUNCH
MUNCH

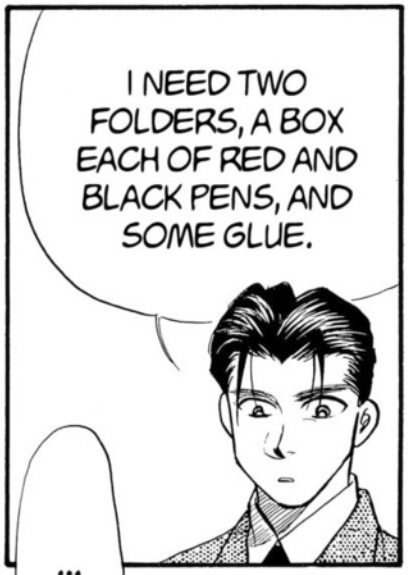
OH, MR. ENOKI, WELCOME BACK.
SOUNDS LIKE ANOTHER PEACEFUL DAY AT THE OFFICE.
PHEW


YES, MA'AM!!
STOP EATING WHEN I'M TALKING TO YOU!!


I REALIZE THAT. BUT THE A TEAM HAD BETTER KEEP AN EYE ON THE OTHER TEAM.
WELL, EDOMAE AND THE OTHERS ON THE A TEAM ARE WORKING ON AN IMPORTANT PROJECT, SO THEY NEED A LOT OF OFFICE SUPPLIES.
Give us a break?

THE TEAM ON THIS FLOOR IS UNUSUALLY WASTEFUL.
REALLY?

I HOPE YOU'LL HAVE A WORD WITH YOUR PEOPLE AS WELL.
HUH?


I NEED TWO FOLDERS, A BOX EACH OF RED AND BLACK PENS, AND SOME GLUE.

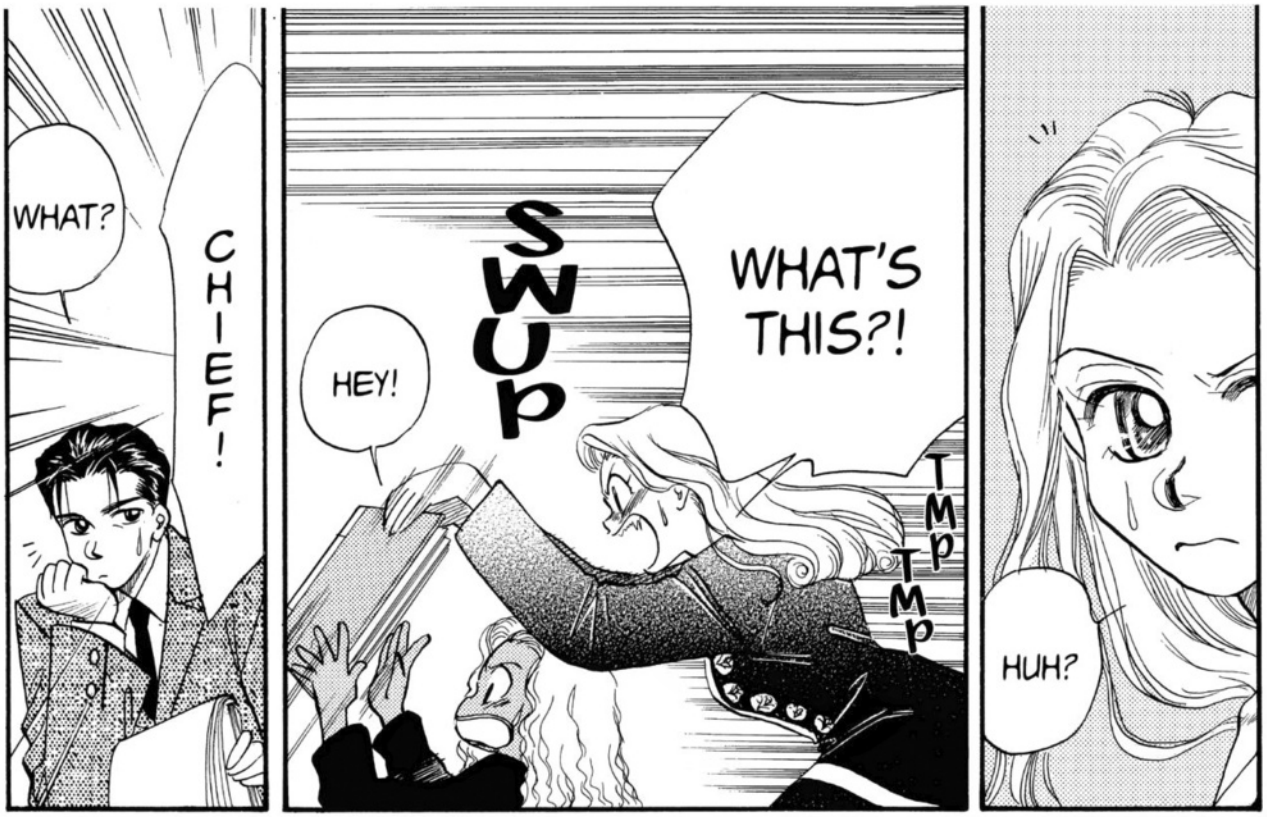
...
YOU NEED THEM TODAY?
IF POS-SIBLE.

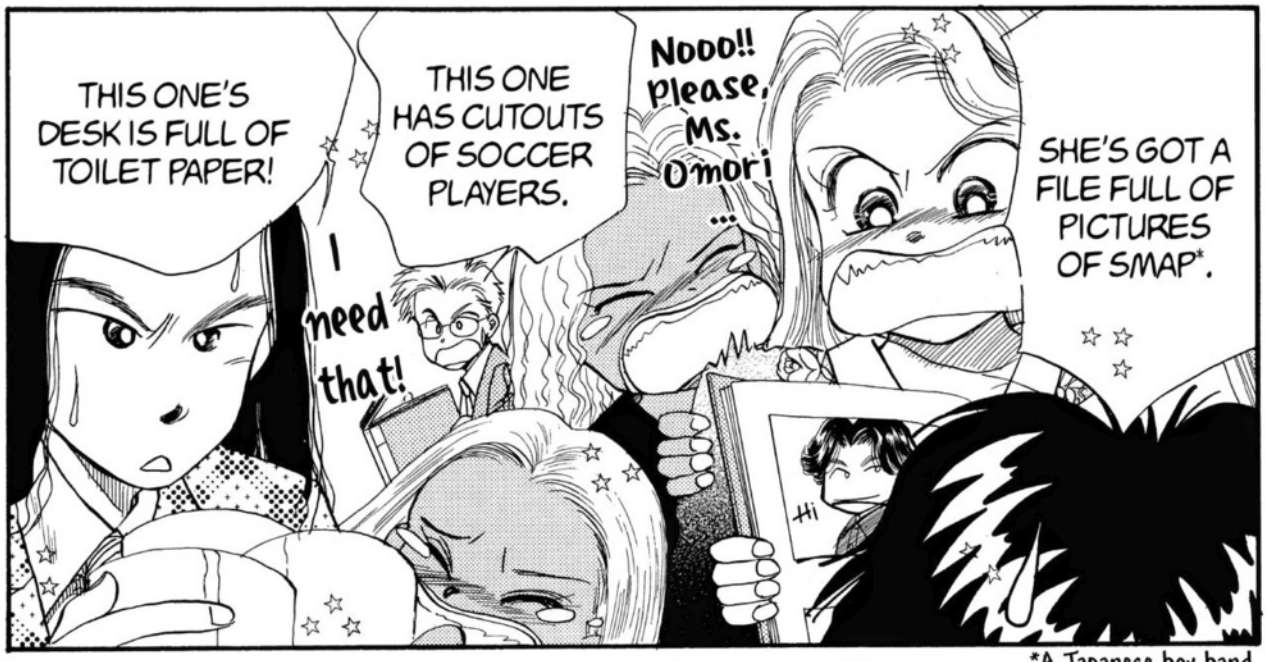
WHAT IS IT?
UH...MS. ANZAI...
OTHER TEAM?
KLAK
KLAK

YEAH.
BUT THOSE GIRLS ON THE B TEAM ARE EVEN WORSE THAN WE ARE.
YACK
YACK

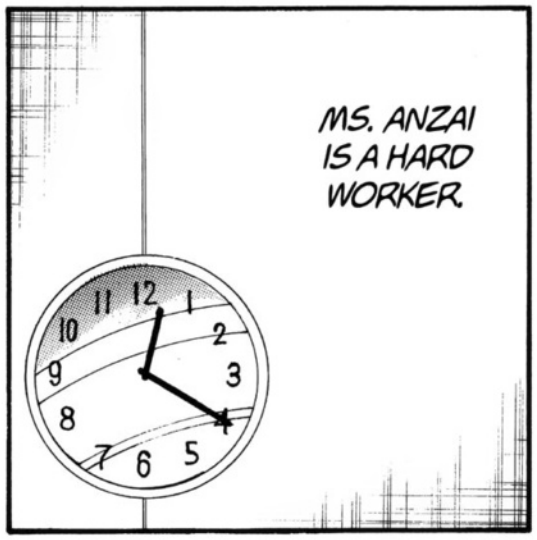
IT'S 'CAUSE YOU LOOK LIKE A GOOF-OFF.
I SWEAR MS. ANZAI'S GOT IT IN FOR ME.
Sheesh.
GRUMBLE
GRUMBLE

SHE MAKES YOU NERVOUS JUST TO ASK FOR THE SUPPLIES YOU NEED.
ALL RIGHT. I'LL DROP THEM OFF LATER.
PHEW





*A Japanese boy band.

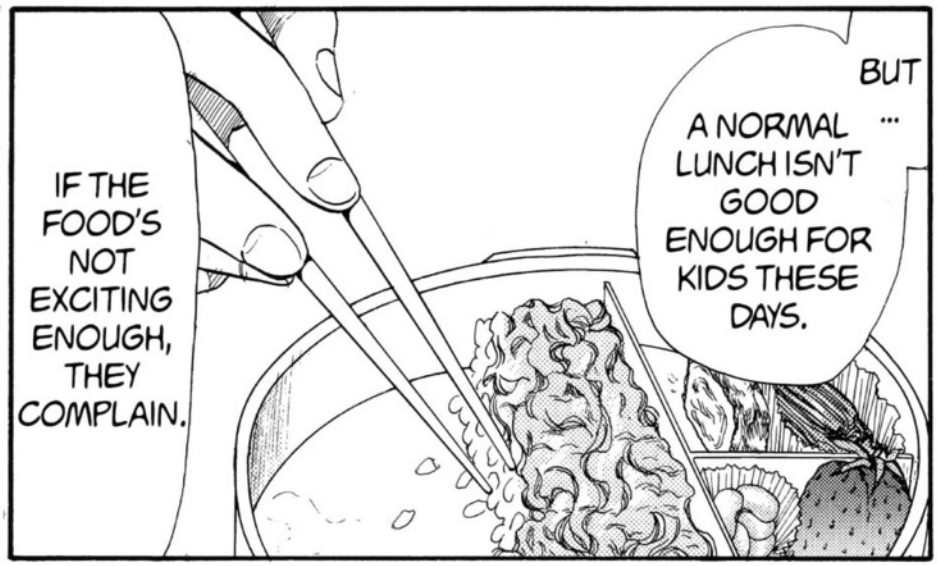


Author's Note: Part 5

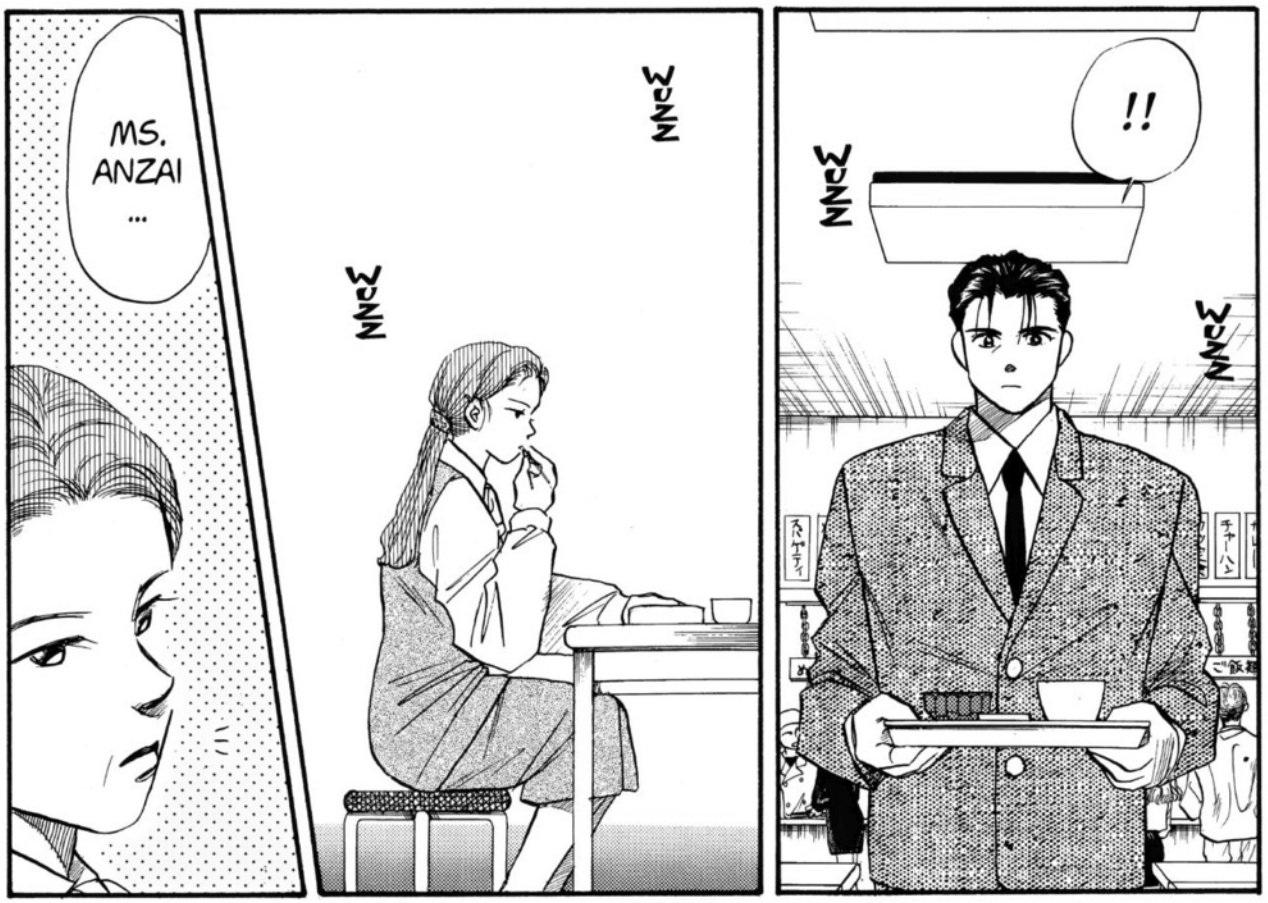
Let's see... Oh yeah. Readers often ask me if there is any character merchandise available for Baby and Me, and I can tell you absolutely, positively that there is unequivocally

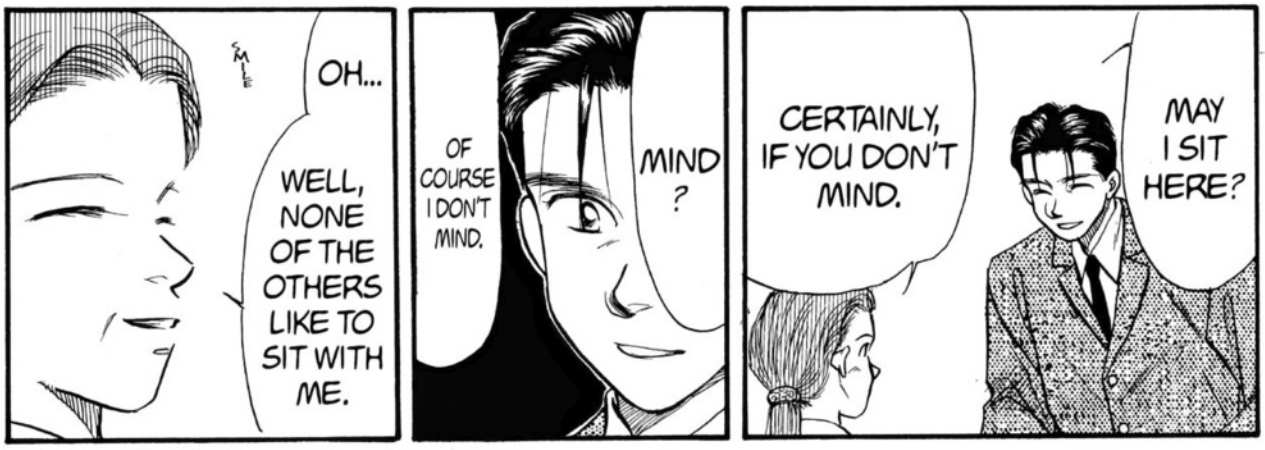
none.

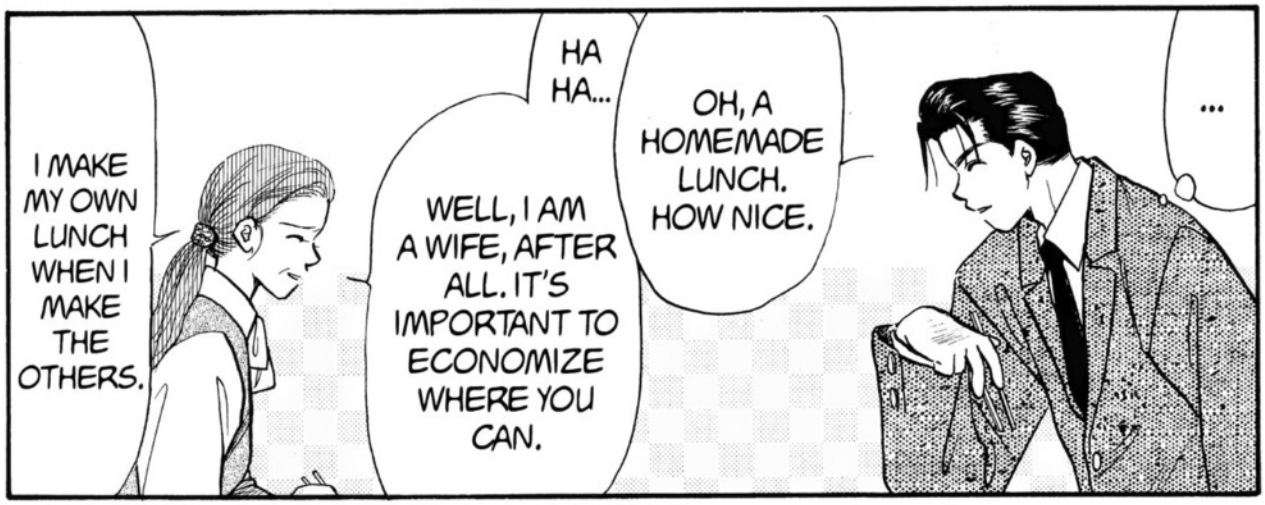
And if there were, it probably wouldn't sell.



*sheets of seaweed, like on sushi.


!!
WUZZ
WUZZ
WUZZ
WUZZ
MS. ANZAI ...


MAY I SIT HERE?
CERTAINLY, IF YOU DON'T MIND.
MIND ?
OF COURSE I DON'T MIND.
OH...
WELL, NONE OF THE OTHERS LIKE TO SIT WITH ME.

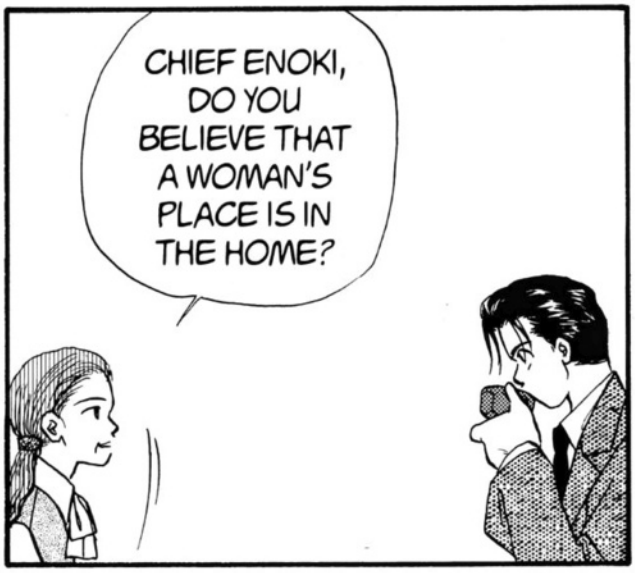

...
OH, A HOMEMADE LUNCH. HOW NICE.
HA HA...
WELL, I AM A WIFE, AFTER ALL. IT'S IMPORTANT TO ECONOMIZE WHERE YOU CAN.
I MAKE MY OWN LUNCH WHEN I MAKE THE OTHERS.

I'M NOT A VERY GOOD COOK.
I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S ANY GOOD.
... DELI-CIOUS !!

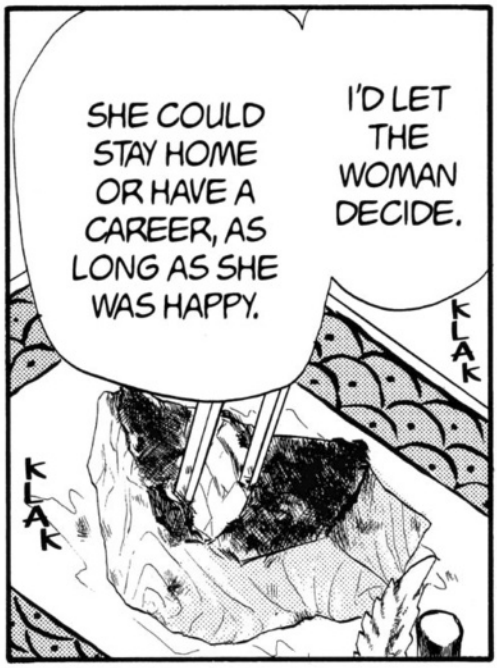
OH, NO ...
THEY'VE NEVER SAID SO, ANYWAY.

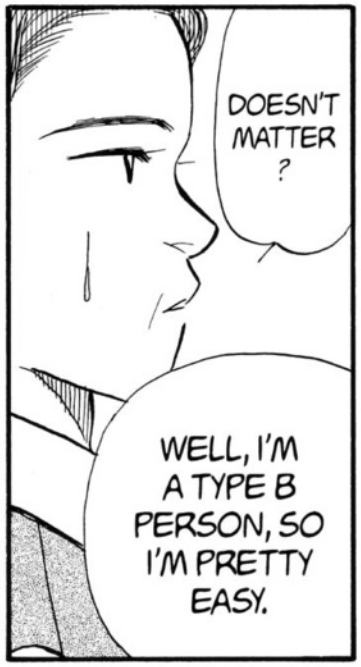
YOUR FAMILY MUST LOVE YOUR COOK-ING.
IT'S SO FLAVORFUL. YOU PUT SOUP STOCK IN IT.

NO.
HUH? DID YOU SAY SOME-THING?
HUH?!


CHIEF ENOKI, DO YOU BELIEVE THAT A WOMAN'S PLACE IS IN THE HOME?

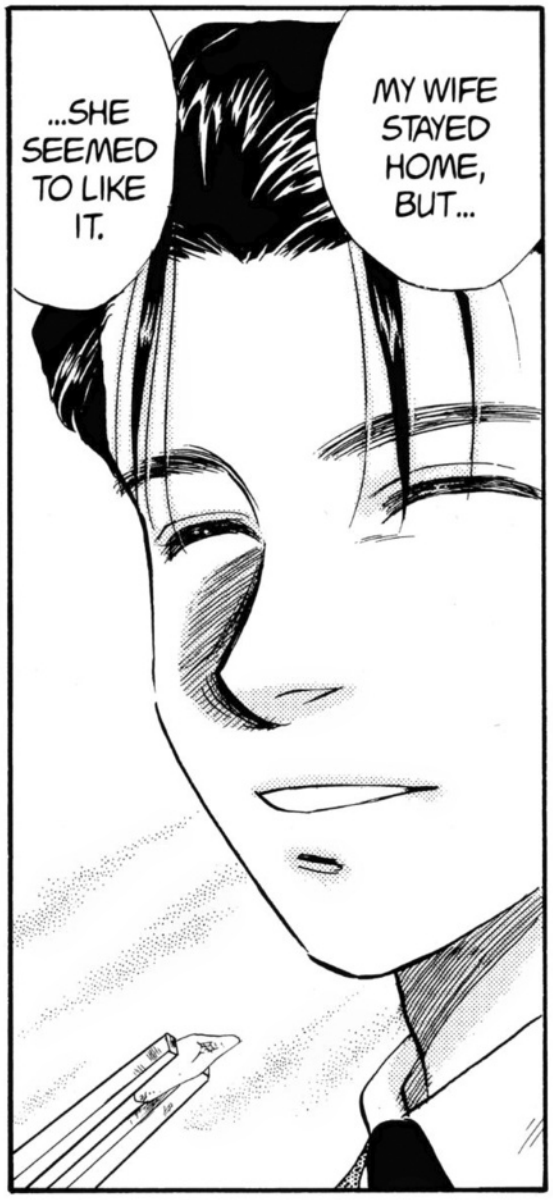
I REALLY DON'T KNOW.
REALLY? MAYBE THEY'RE JUST TOO SHY TO TELL YOU.


I'D LET THE WOMAN DECIDE.
SHE COULD STAY HOME OR HAVE A CAREER, AS LONG AS SHE WAS HAPPY.
KLAK
KLAK

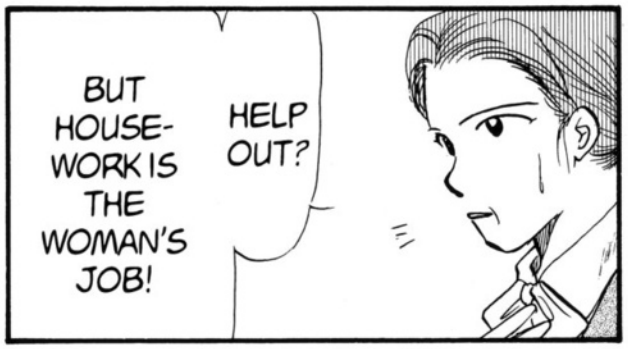

DOESN'T MATTER ?
WELL, I'M A TYPE B PERSON, SO I'M PRETTY EASY.

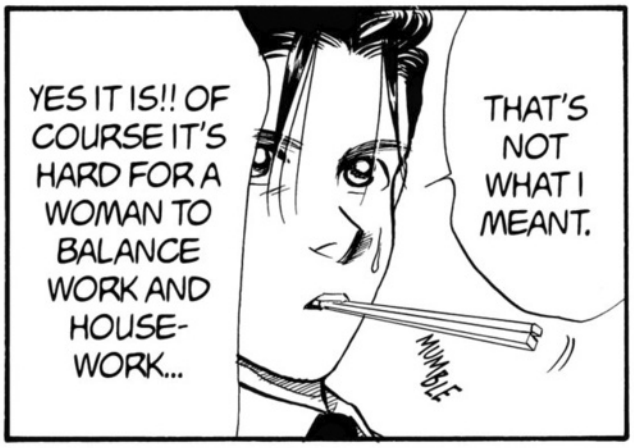
HUH? IT DOESN'T ...
... REALLY MATTER TO ME.

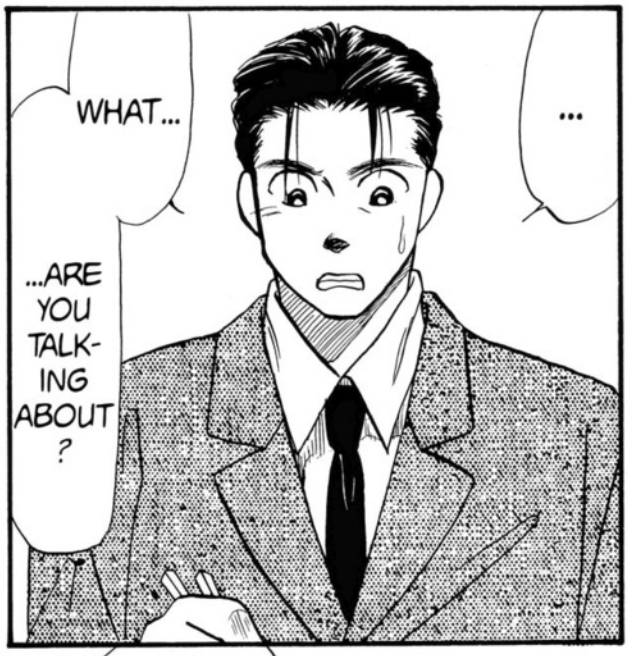
OH?!

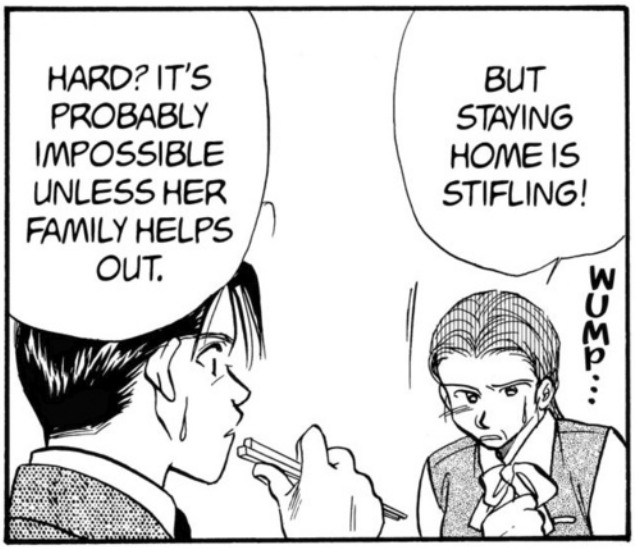

MY WIFE STAYED HOME, BUT...
...SHE SEEMED TO LIKE IT.

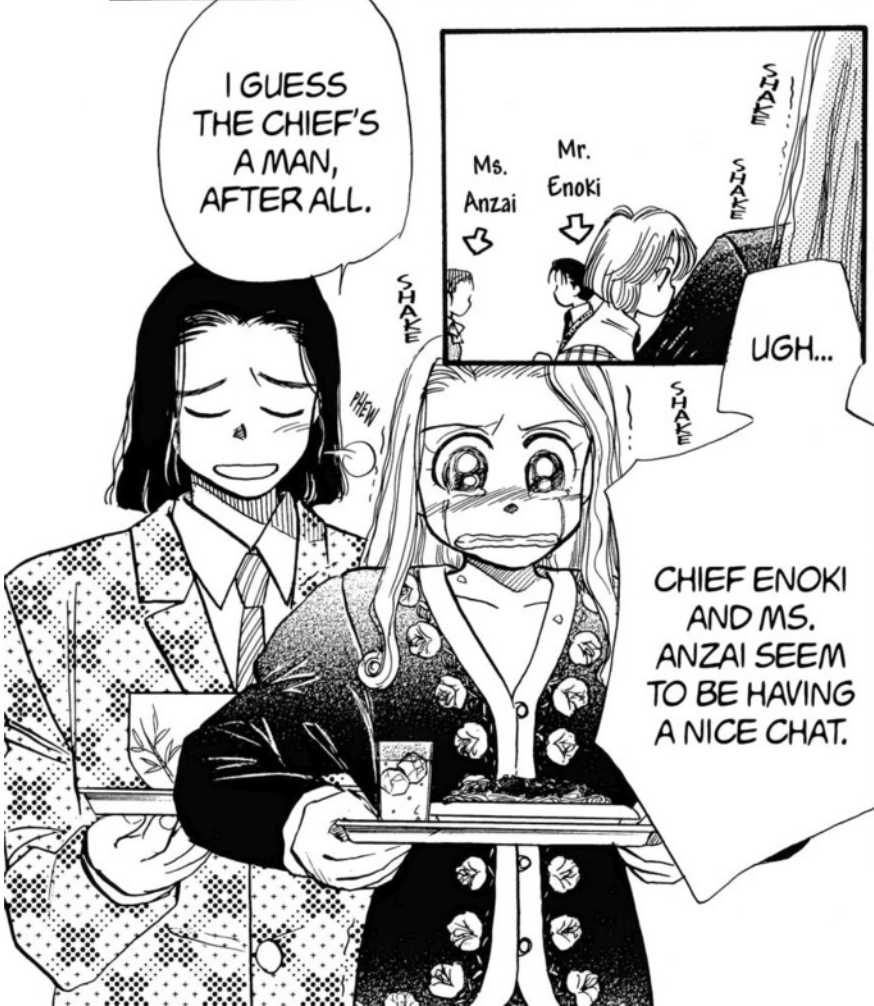
SO WHAT YOU REALLY MEAN IS...
...A WOMAN WOULD BE HAPPIER STAYING HOME, ISN'T THAT RIGHT?!
KLUNK
GASP
WHUp


BUT HOUSE-WORK IS THE WOMAN'S JOB!
HELP OUT?


YES IT IS!! OF COURSE IT'S HARD FOR A WOMAN TO BALANCE WORK AND HOUSE-WORK...
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
MUMBLE

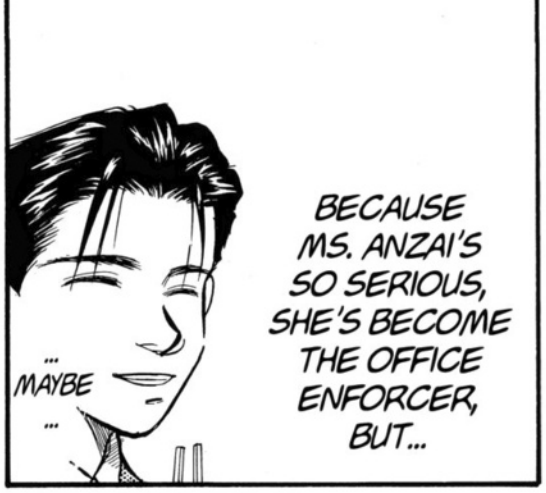

WHAT...
...ARE YOU TALK-ING ABOUT?
...


HARD? IT'S PROBABLY IMPOSSIBLE UNLESS HER FAMILY HELPS OUT.
BUT STAYING HOME IS STIFLING!
WUMP...


I GUESS THE CHIEF'S A MAN, AFTER ALL.
SHAKE
PHEW
Ms. Anzai
Mr. Enoki
SHAKE
SHAKE
UGH...
SHAKE
CHIEF ENOKI AND MS. ANZAI SEEM TO BE HAVING A NICE CHAT.

...MADE A MISTAKE?
HAVE I...

DAD...
THE BATH-ROOM'S FREE.


BECAUSE MS. ANZAI'S SO SERIOUS, SHE'S BECOME THE OFFICE ENFORCER, BUT...
... MAYBE ...

...SHE'S NOT...
...AS TOUGH AS SHE SEEMS.

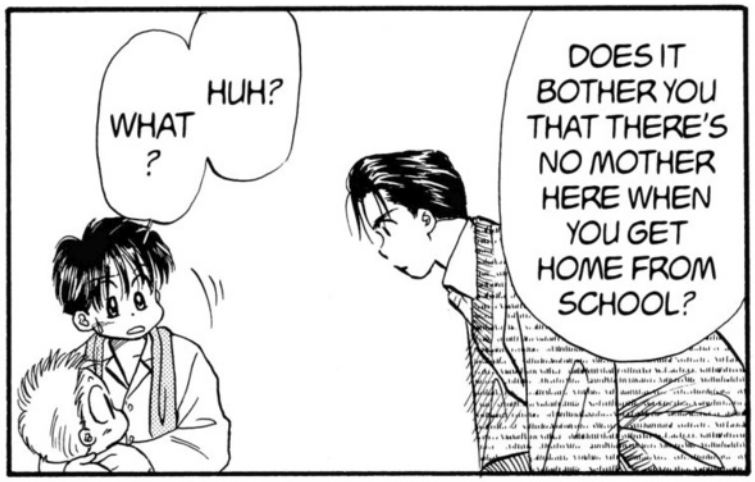
HUH?
OH...
TAKUYA ...
SNUFF
SNUFF

THEN ...
GUESS I'LL TAKE A BATH.
RUSTLE
RUSTLE

OKAY.
I WAS PLAYING WITH MINORU, SO THE WATER'S A LITTLE LOW.

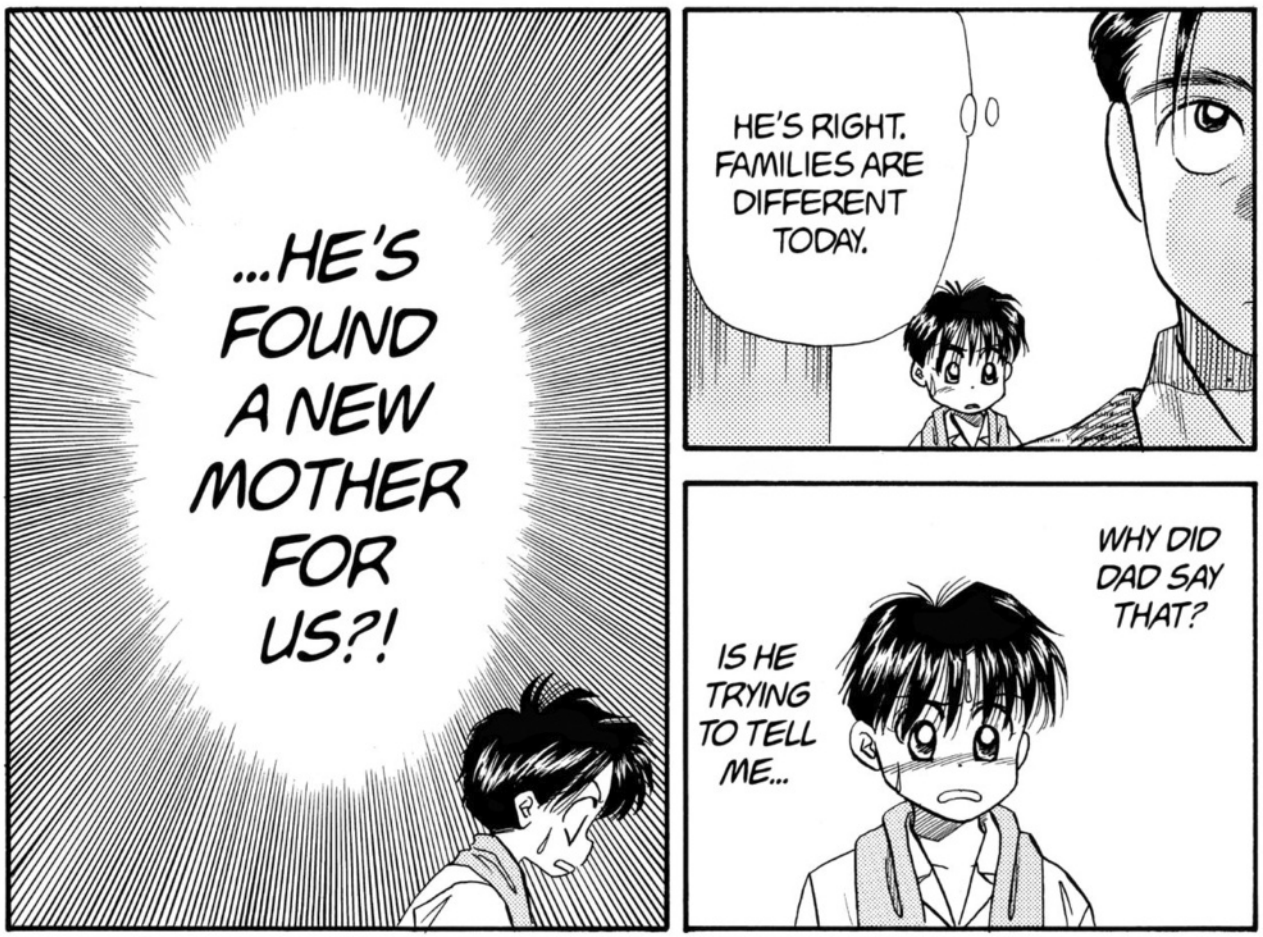
HUH?

DO YOU THINK ...
...A MOTHER SHOULD STAY HOME?


DOES IT BOTHER YOU THAT THERE'S NO MOTHER HERE WHEN YOU GET HOME FROM SCHOOL?
HUH?
WHAT ?

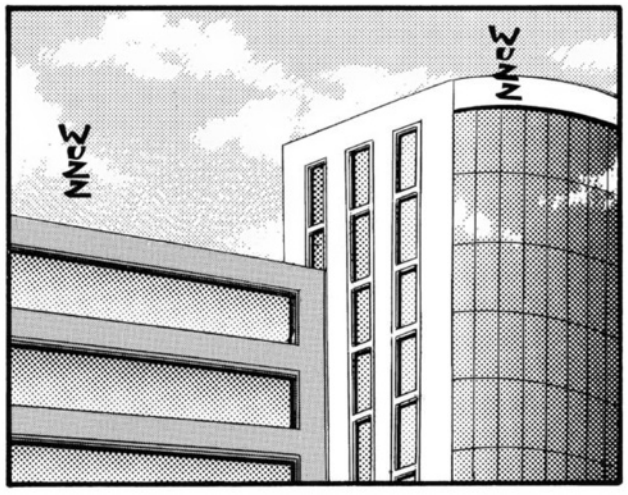
I...
WHY SHOULD IT BOTHER ME?! I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF!!

YEAH, YOU CAN--
RIGHT!

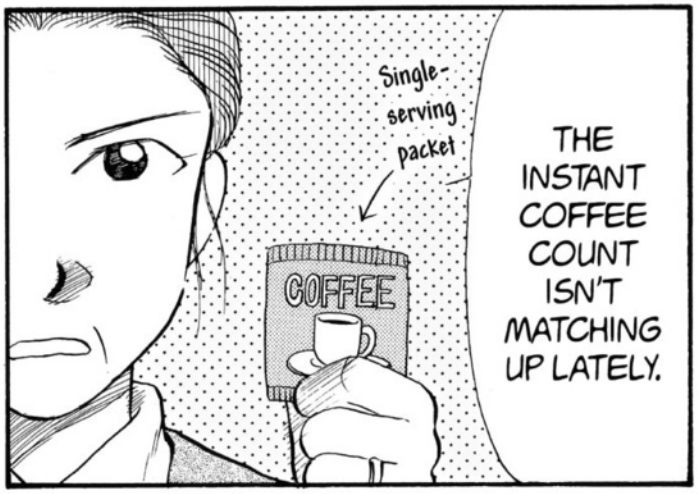

...HE'S FOUND A NEW MOTHER FOR US?!

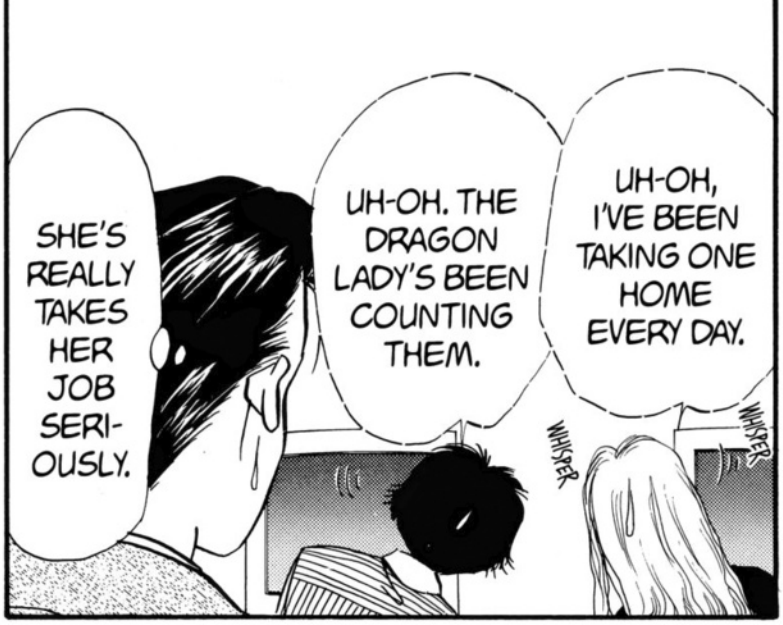
HE'S RIGHT. FAMILIES ARE DIFFERENT TODAY.

WHY DID DAD SAY THAT?
IS HE TRYING TO TELL ME...

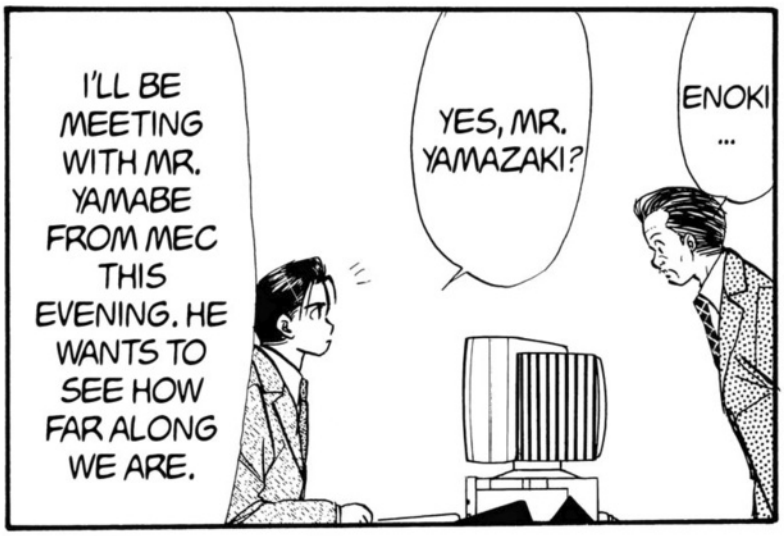

WUZZ
WUZZ

KSHHH
THERE'S NOT ENOUGH WATER.

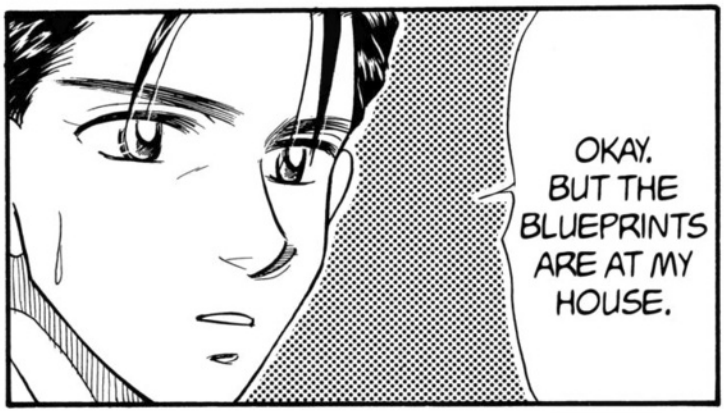

Single-serving packet
COFFEE
THE INSTANT COFFEE COUNT ISN'T MATCHING UP LATELY.


SHE'S REALLY TAKES HER JOB SERI-OUSLY.
UH-OH. THE DRAGON LADY'S BEEN COUNTING THEM.
UH-OH, I'VE BEEN TAKING ONE HOME EVERY DAY.
WHISPER
WHISPER

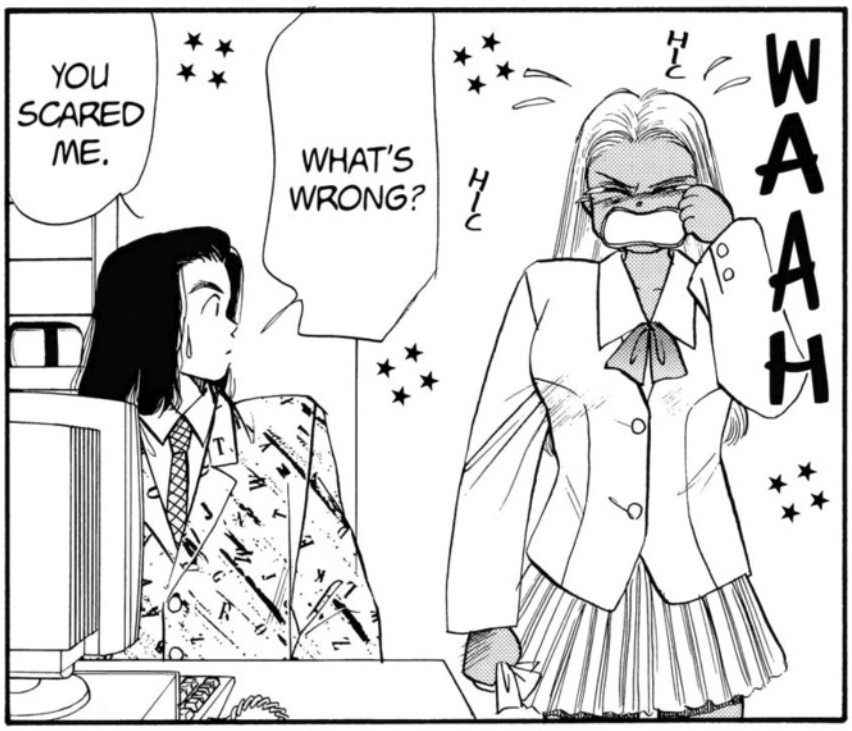
YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO TAKE THEM HOME.
KLAK
KLAK
WUNN
WUNN


I'LL BE MEETING WITH MR. YAMABE FROM MEC THIS EVENING. HE WANTS TO SEE HOW FAR ALONG WE ARE.
YES, MR. YAMAZAKI?
ENOKI ...

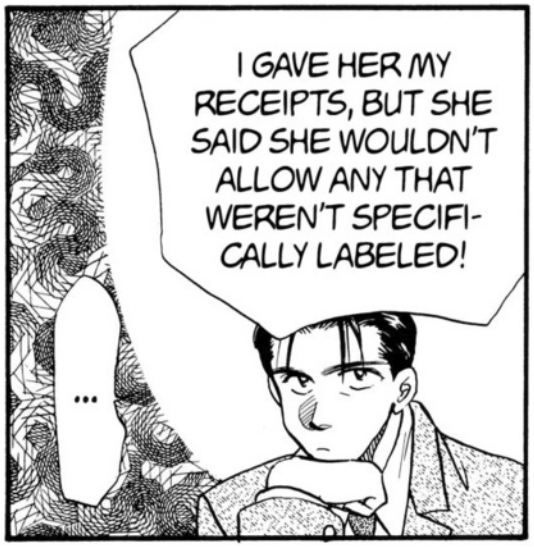
PLEASE TRY.
I COULD HAVE MY SON BRING THEM. HE GETS HOME AROUND 3:00, SO THEY SHOULD BE HERE IN TIME.


OKAY. BUT THE BLUEPRINTS ARE AT MY HOUSE.

HE'LL BE HERE A LITTLE AFTER 6:00. CAN YOU HAVE THEM HERE BY THEN?

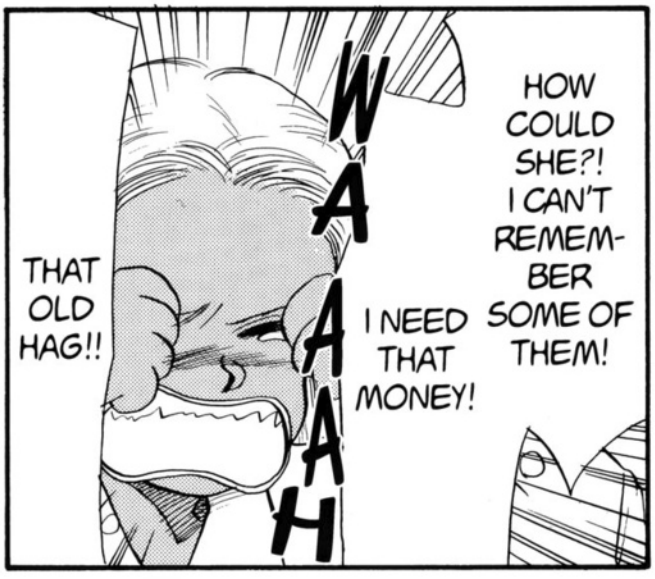

YOU SCARED ME.
WHAT'S WRONG?
HIC
HIC
WAAAH

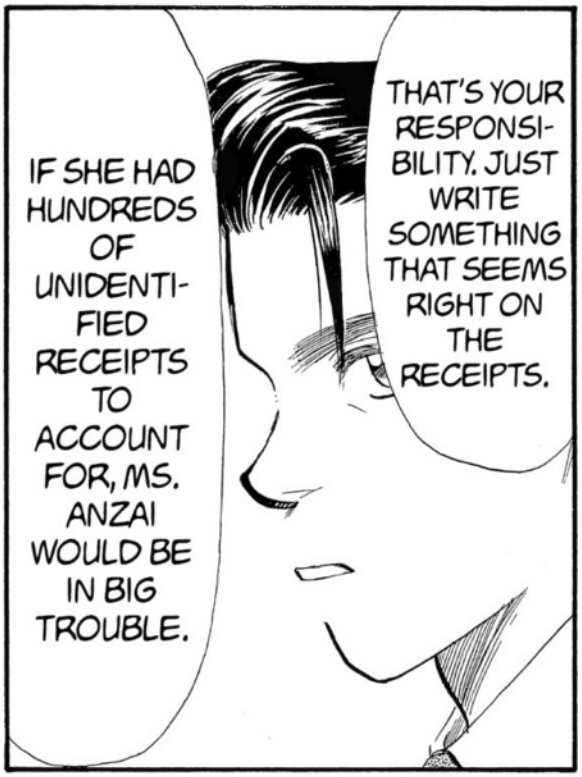
WAAAH
IT'S NOT FAIR !!

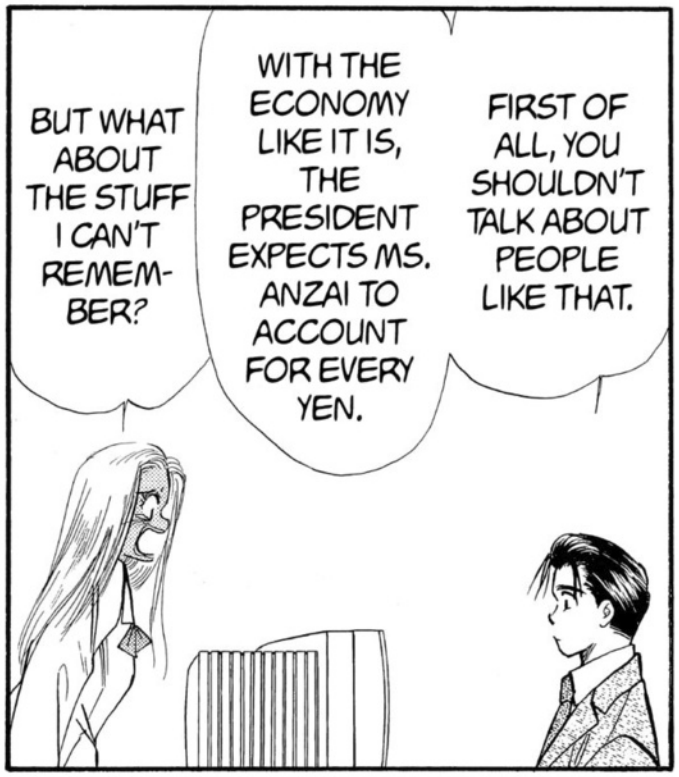

I GAVE HER MY RECEIPTS, BUT SHE SAID SHE WOULDN'T ALLOW ANY THAT WEREN'T SPECIFICALLY LABELED!
...

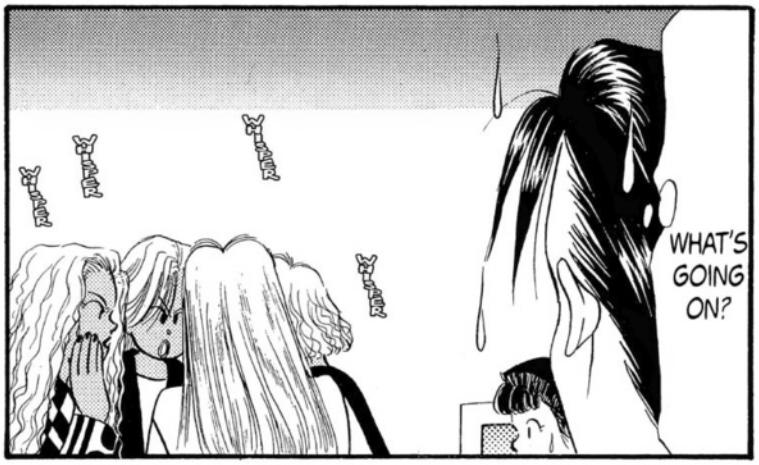
THAT WITCH! I CAN'T STAND HER!!
WIP
LISTEN, EDOMAE !!
DOOM

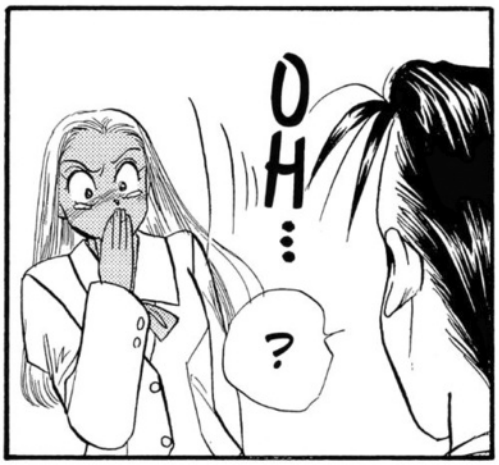
YES?
HIRAMATSU, COME HERE.
SNIF
WIP
WIP


THAT OLD HAG!!
WAAAH
I NEED THAT MONEY!
HOW COULD SHE?! I CAN'T REMEMBER SOME OF THEM!


IF SHE HAD HUNDREDS OF UNIDENTIFIED RECEIPTS TO ACCOUNT FOR, MS. ANZAI WOULD BE IN BIG TROUBLE.
THAT'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY. JUST WRITE SOMETHING THAT SEEMS RIGHT ON THE RECEIPTS.


BUT WHAT ABOUT THE STUFF I CAN'T REMEMBER?
WITH THE ECONOMY LIKE IT IS, THE PRESIDENT EXPECTS MS. ANZAI TO ACCOUNT FOR EVERY YEN.
FIRST OF ALL, YOU SHOULDN'T TALK ABOUT PEOPLE LIKE THAT.


WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHAT'S GOING ON?

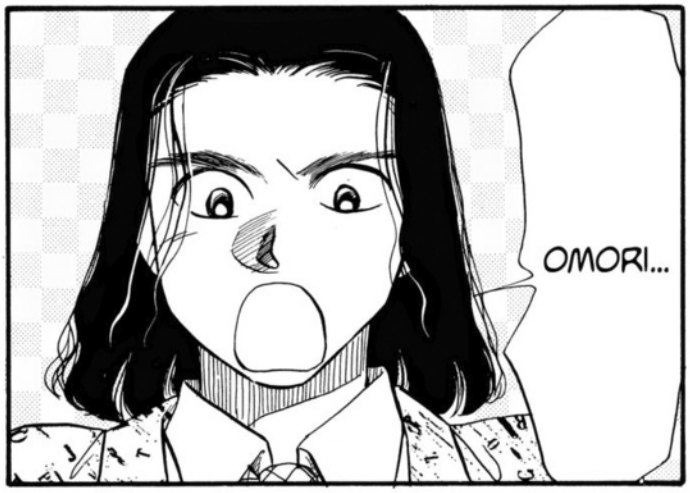

OH...
?

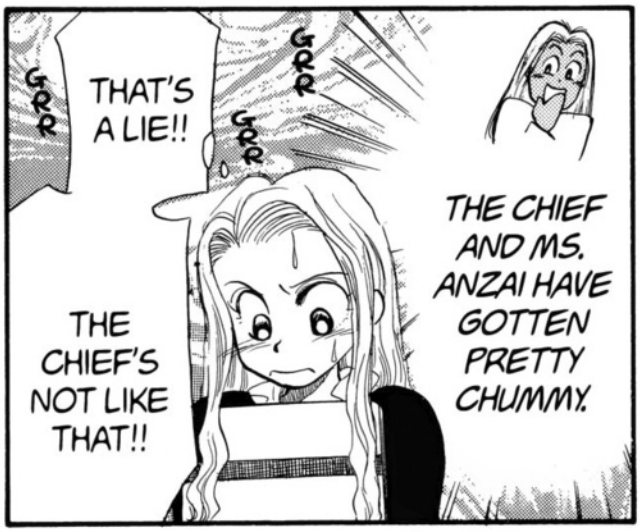
OH, THANK GOODNESS.
SIR, THEY'RE HERE.

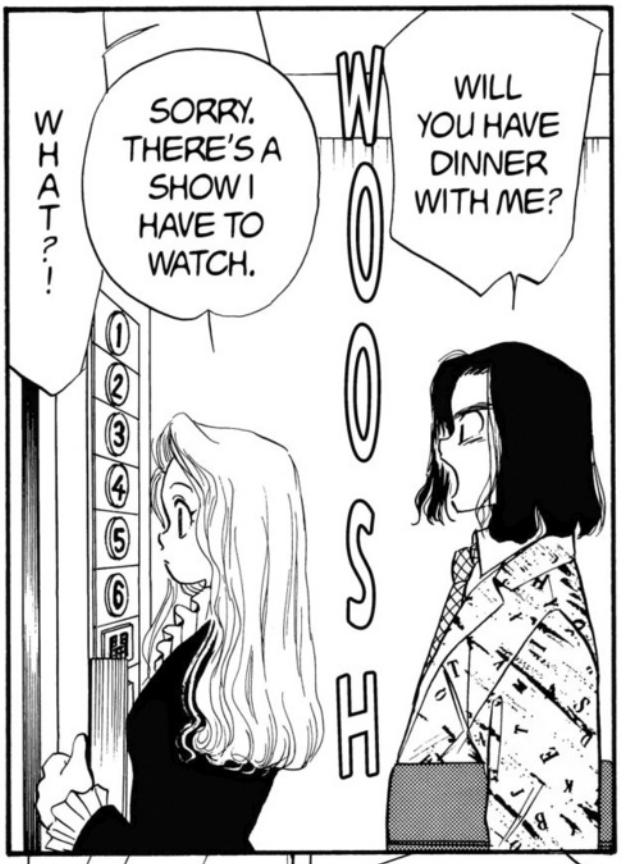
OKAY. TELL THEM I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.

RRING
CHIEF ENOKI, YOUR SONS ARE DOWN IN THE LOBBY.

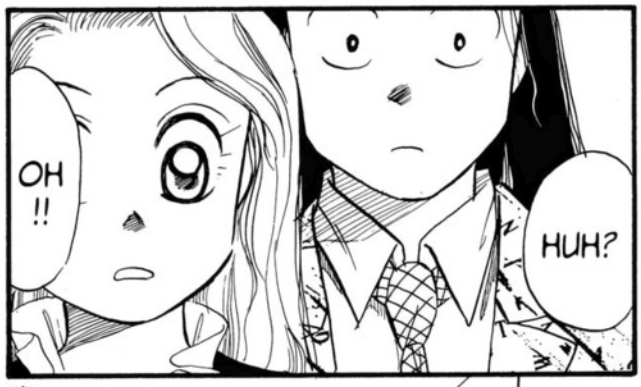
HELLO, BOYS.
SO YOU'RE MR. ENOKI'S SONS.
HEY, DAD.
TAKUYA ...
MINO-RU...
WUNN
WUNN
HI!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
RUFF
RUFF
YOU'RE GOOD BOYS.
THEY'RE SO CUTE. ♡
I CAN'T BELIEVE CHIEF ENOKI HAS A SON THAT BIG.
DOOM
AND YOU'RE HANDSOME TOO. I BOUGHT SOME CANDY JUST FOR YOU.
DAD...
IT'S OKAY. HE'S HARM-LESS.


OMORI...

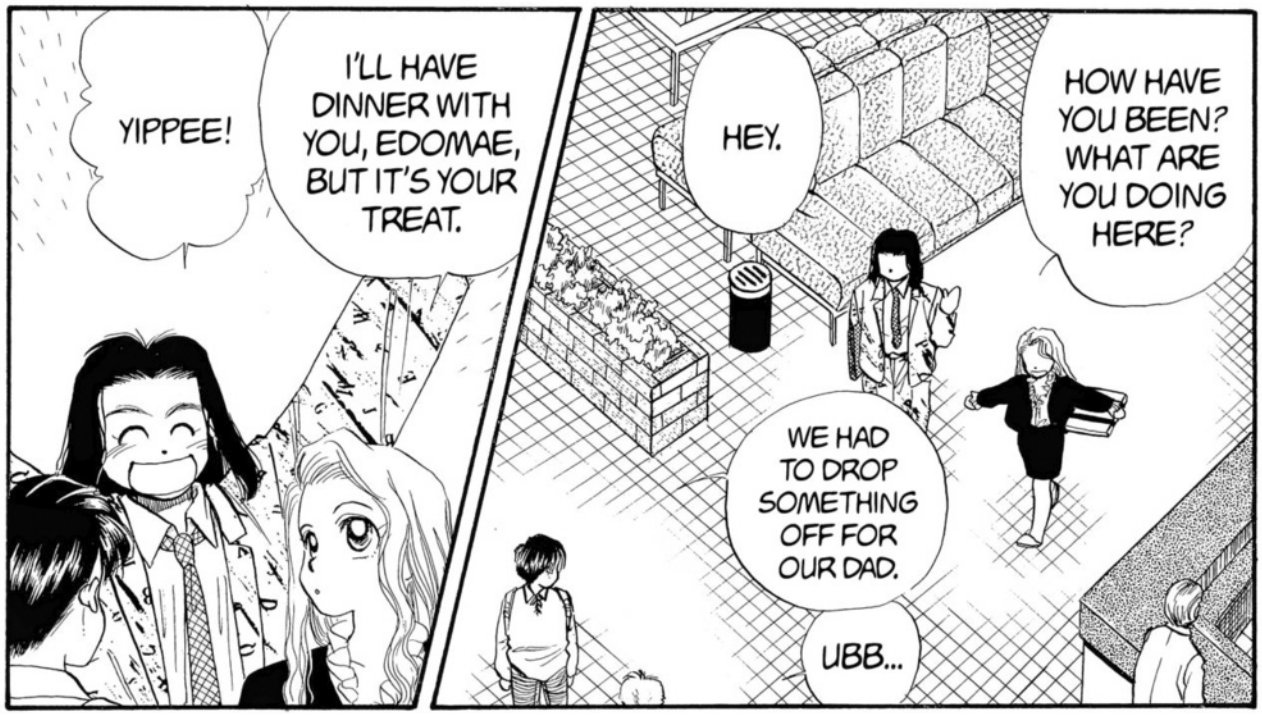

THE CHIEF AND MS. ANZAI HAVE GOTTEN PRETTY CHUMMY.
GRR
GRR
GRR
THAT'S A LIE!!
THE CHIEF'S NOT LIKE THAT!!

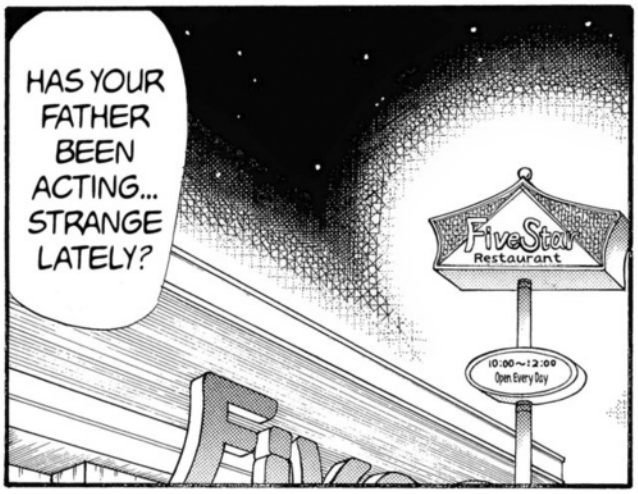

WILL YOU HAVE DINNER WITH ME?
WOOSH
SORRY. THERE'S A SHOW I HAVE TO WATCH.
WHAT?!

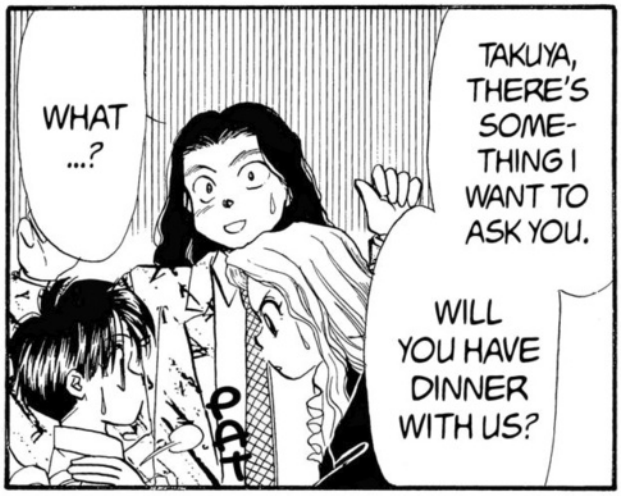
DING
COME ON, OMORI...
WOOSH
JUST SHUT UP, OKAY?!


HUH?
OH!!

TAKUYA AND MINORU. ♡


YIPPEE!
I'LL HAVE DINNER WITH YOU, EDOMAE, BUT IT'S YOUR TREAT.
HEY.
HOW HAVE YOU BEEN? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WE HAD TO DROP SOMETHING OFF FOR OUR DAD.
UBB...

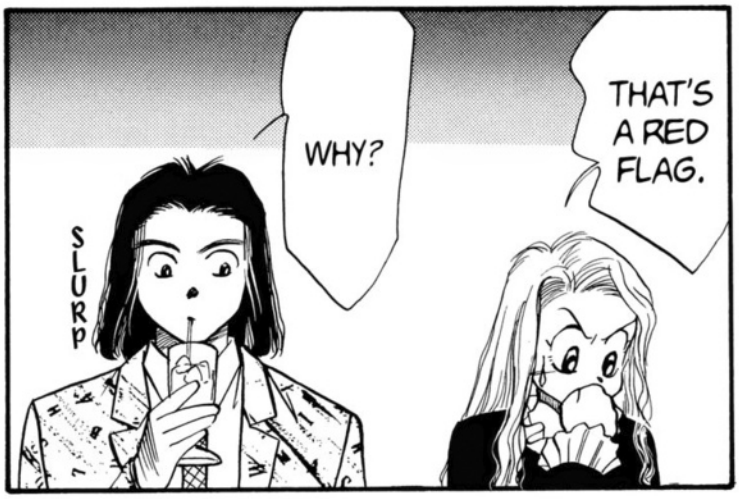

HAS YOUR FATHER BEEN ACTING... STRANGE LATELY?
FiveStar
Restaurant
10:00~12:00
Open Every Day

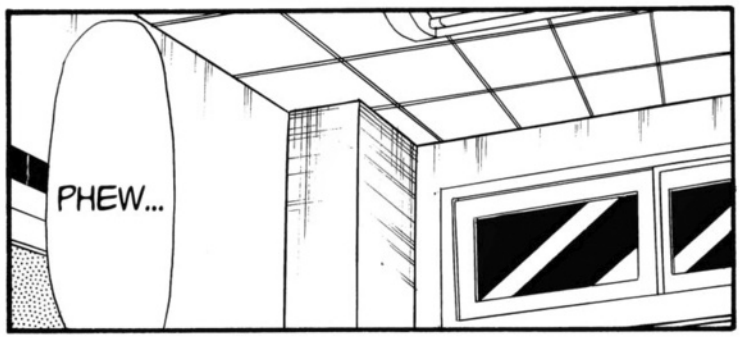

WHAT ...?
TAKUYA, THERE'S SOME-THING I WANT TO ASK YOU.
WILL YOU HAVE DINNER WITH US?

HE DID ASK ME IF I'D LIKE TO HAVE A STAY-AT-HOME MOM.
BUT ...
WHAT ?!

STRANGE?
HAS HE BEEN COMING HOME LATE?
OR GETTING UNUSUAL PHONE CALLS?
NO.

I CAN FINALLY GO HOME...


WHY?
THAT'S A RED FLAG.
SLURP

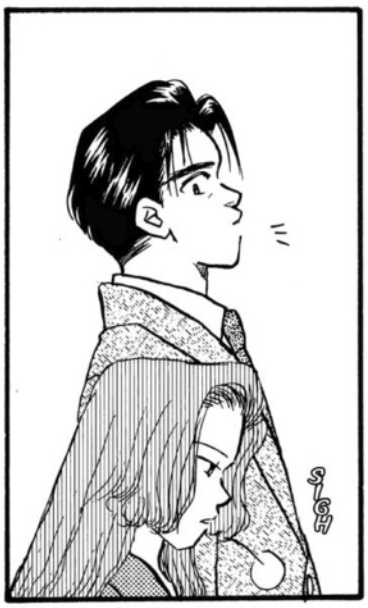

PHEW...

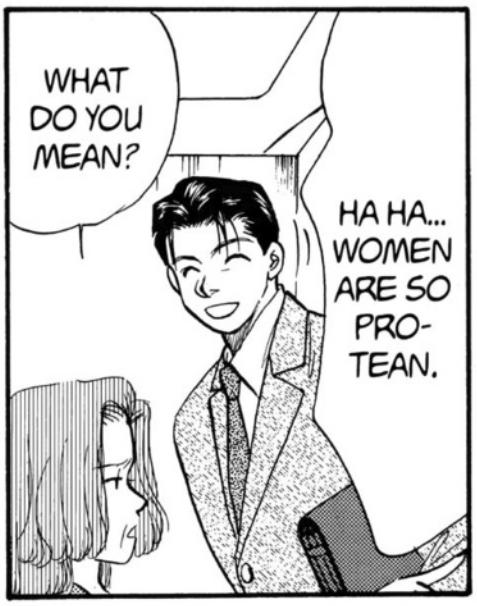
MS. ANZAI?

1 2 3 4 5 6
D
I
N
G

YES?
?

TIRED?
WHAT ?


SIGH

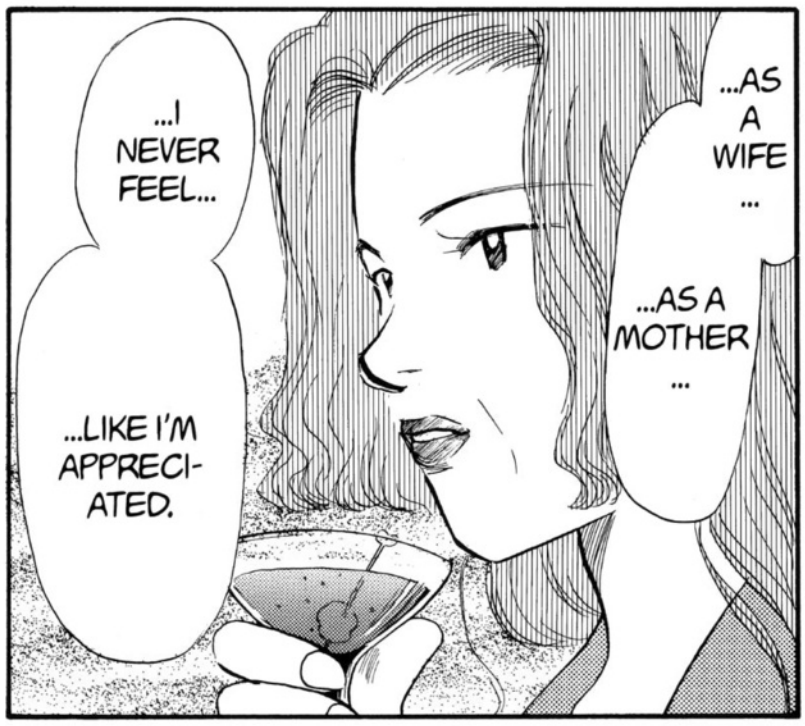

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
HA HA... WOMEN ARE SO PRO-TEAN.

JUST FOR HALF AN HOUR.
HUH?
LET'S HAVE A DRINK!
WHAK

...

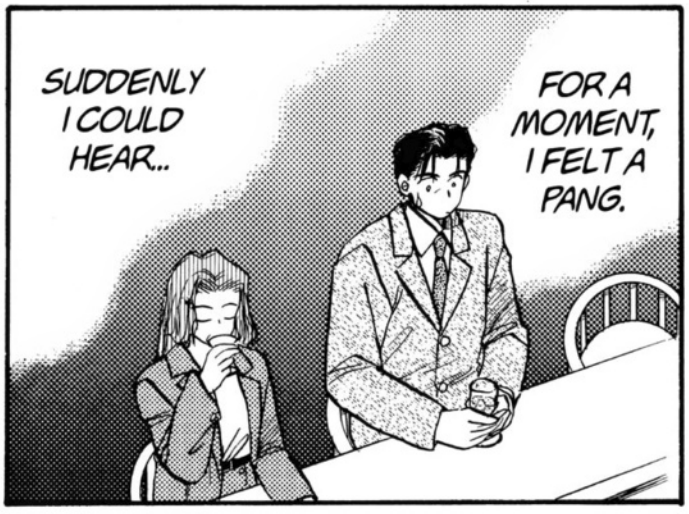
I HAVE A LOT ON MY PLATE, I SUPPOSE.
WELL, I...

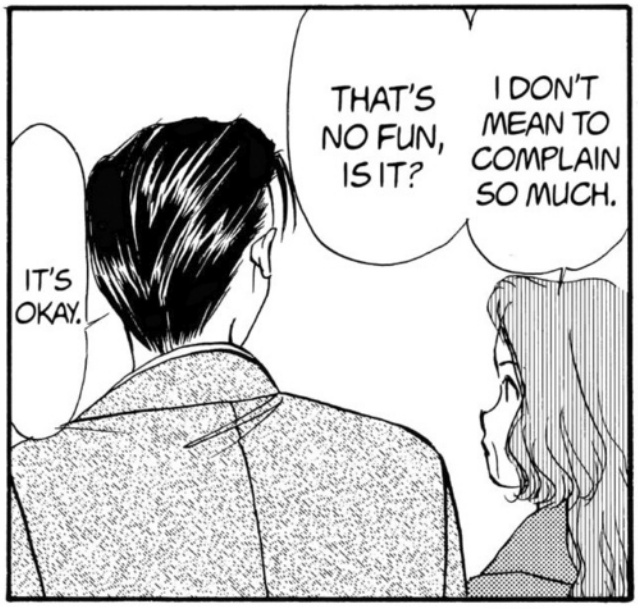
...BEING A WOMAN.
IT'S NO FUN...
BAR Castle

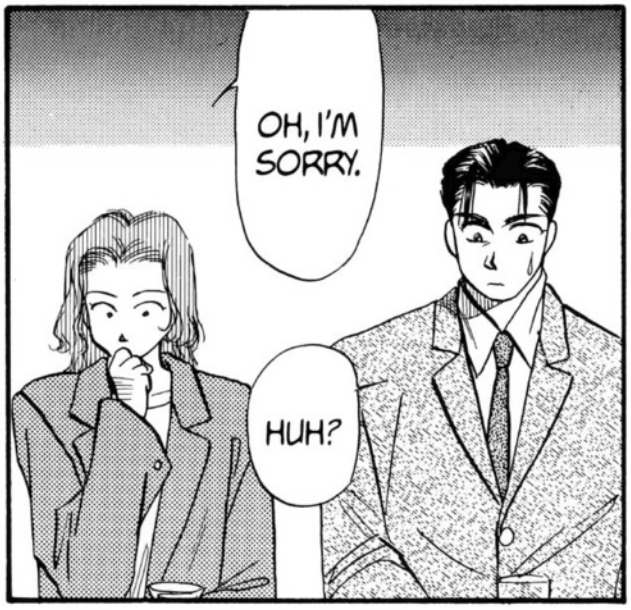

...AS A WIFE ...
...AS A MOTHER ...
...I NEVER FEEL...
...LIKE I'M APPRECI-ATED.

NO?
AT WORK...

...MY OWN MOTHER SAYING THOSE SAME WORDS.

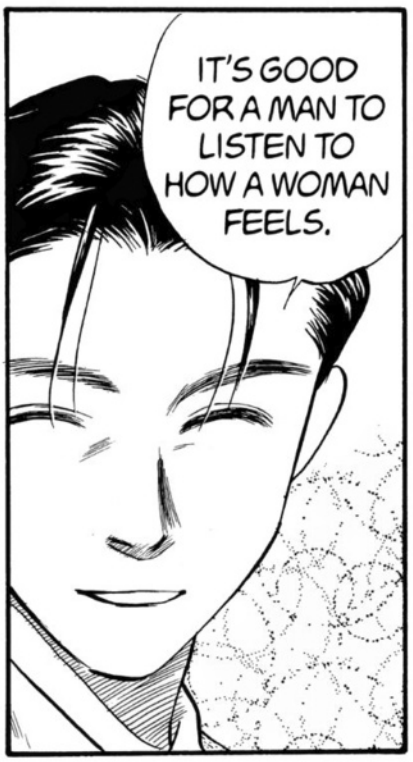

SUDDENLY I COULD HEAR...
FOR A MOMENT, I FELT A PANG.

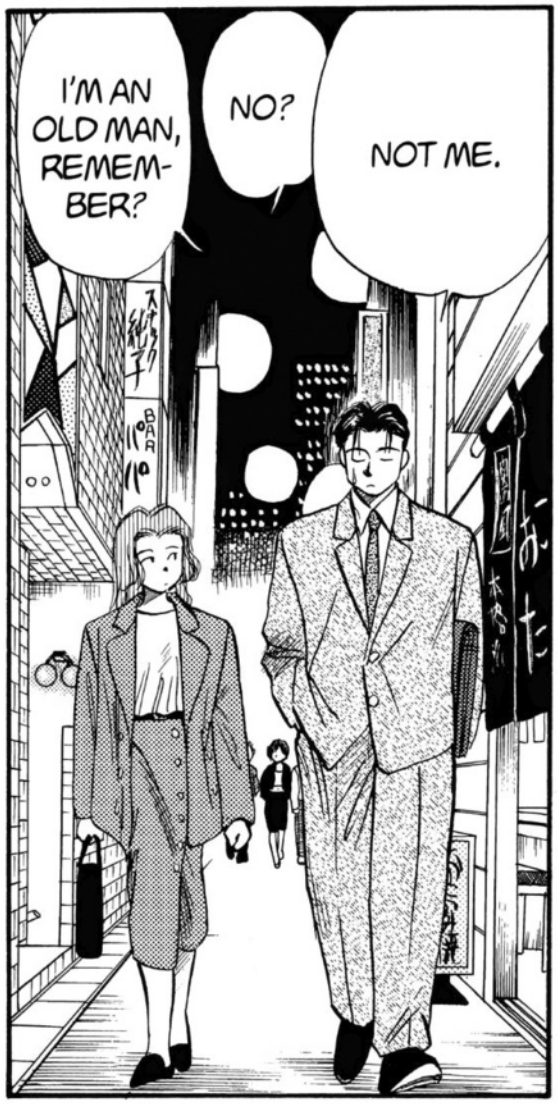

THAT'S NO FUN, IS IT?
I DON'T MEAN TO COMPLAIN SO MUCH.
IT'S OKAY.


OH, I'M SORRY.
HUH?

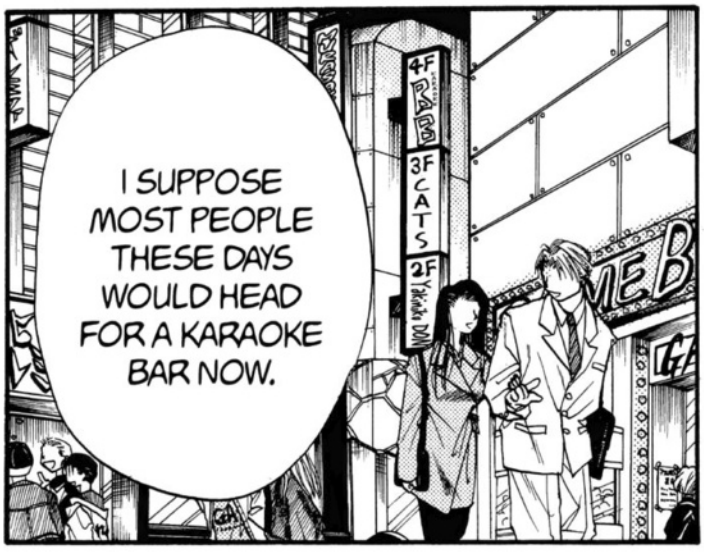
WHAT IS IT?
HEH

THAT'S FOR SURE.
BUT MEN HAVE THEIR PROBLEMS TOO, DON'T THEY?
Gasle

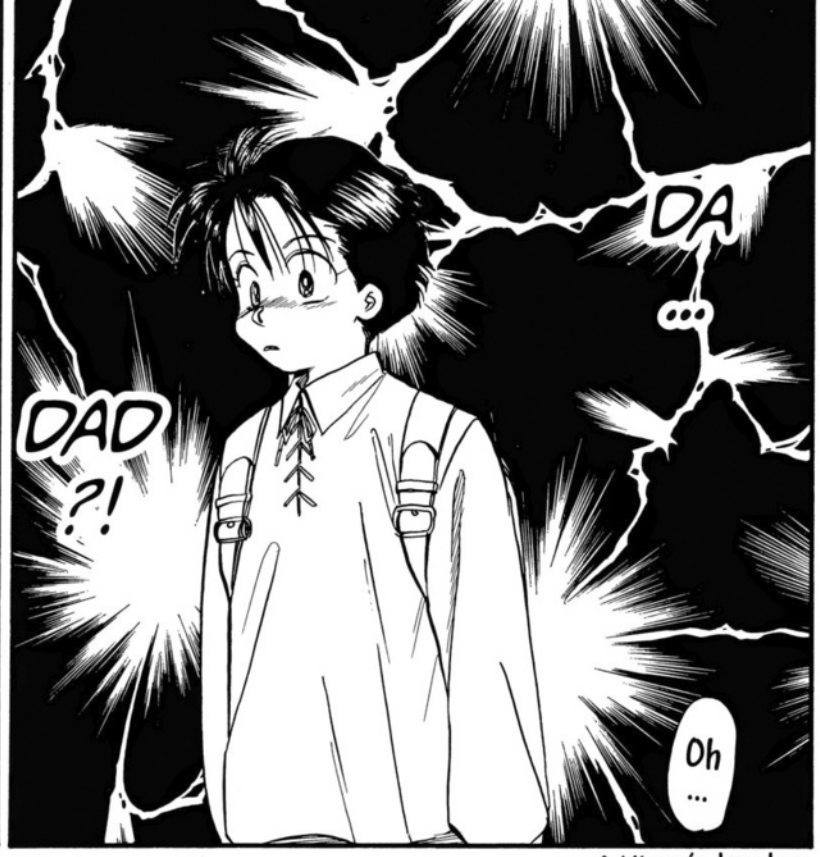

IT'S GOOD FOR A MAN TO LISTEN TO HOW A WOMAN FEELS.


I'M AN OLD MAN, REMEMBER?
NO?
NOT ME.
BAR

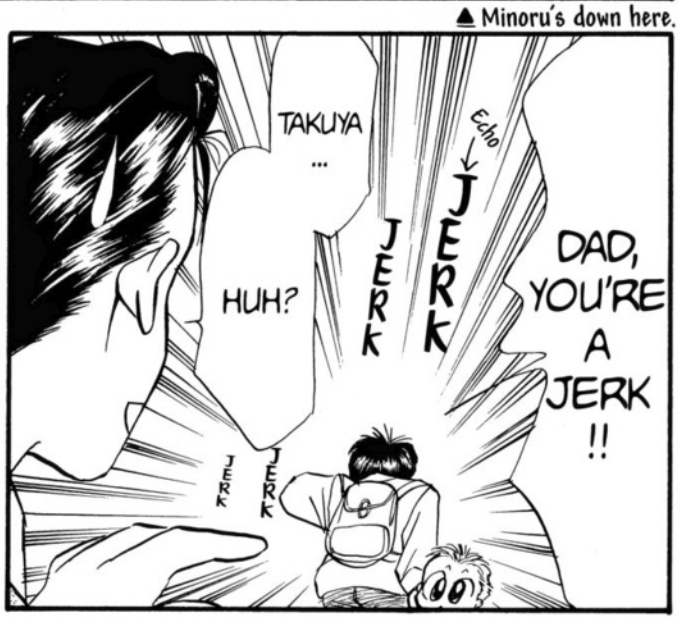
I'LL TAKE THAT AS A COMPLIMENT.
I GUESS IT'S 'CAUSE YOU'RE OLD.
YOU'RE NOT WHAT I EXPECTED. NOTHING RATTLES YOU.
SHUNK

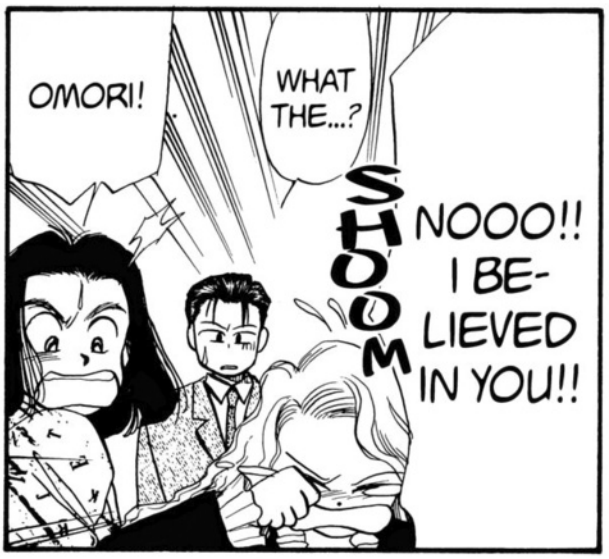

I SUPPOSE MOST PEOPLE THESE DAYS WOULD HEAD FOR A KARAOKE BAR NOW.
4F
3F CATS
2F

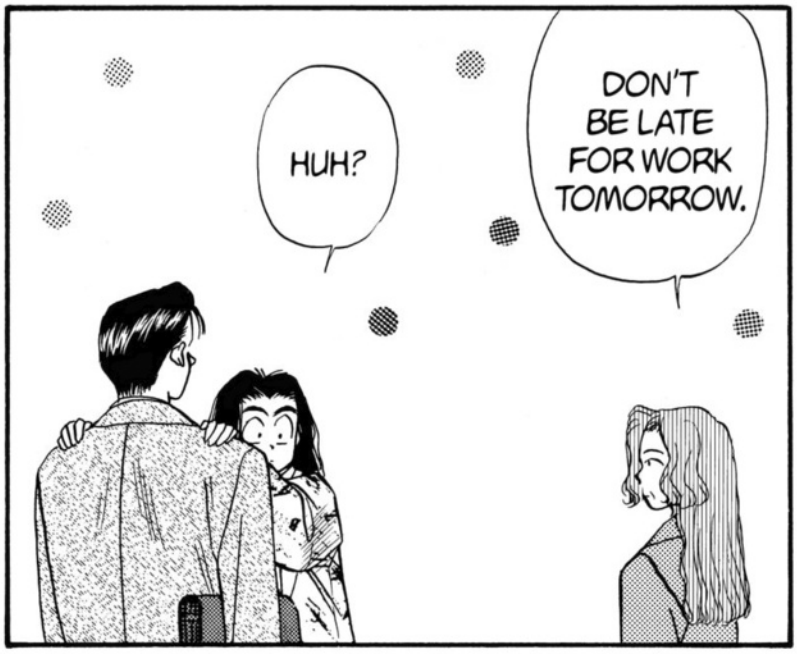
WUZZ
WUZZ
MINORU? WHAT'S WRONG?
WAAH!! I SEEPY...
GOODBYE, TAKUYA AND MINORU.
WUZZ
WUZZ
BYE. THANKS FOR DINNER.
!!
HEY! THERE'S THE CHIEF.
OH!

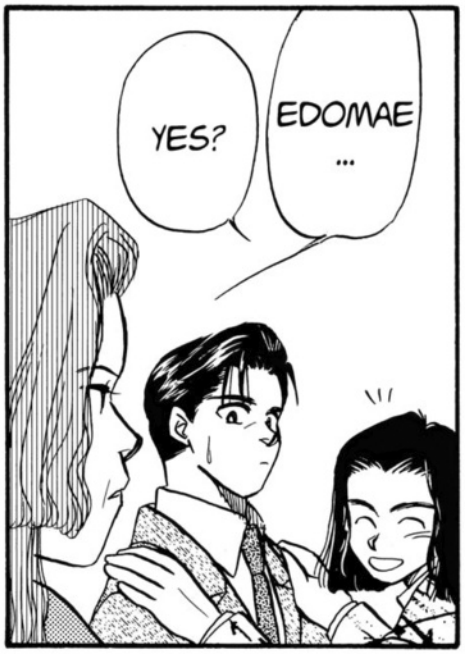


▲ Minoru's down here.





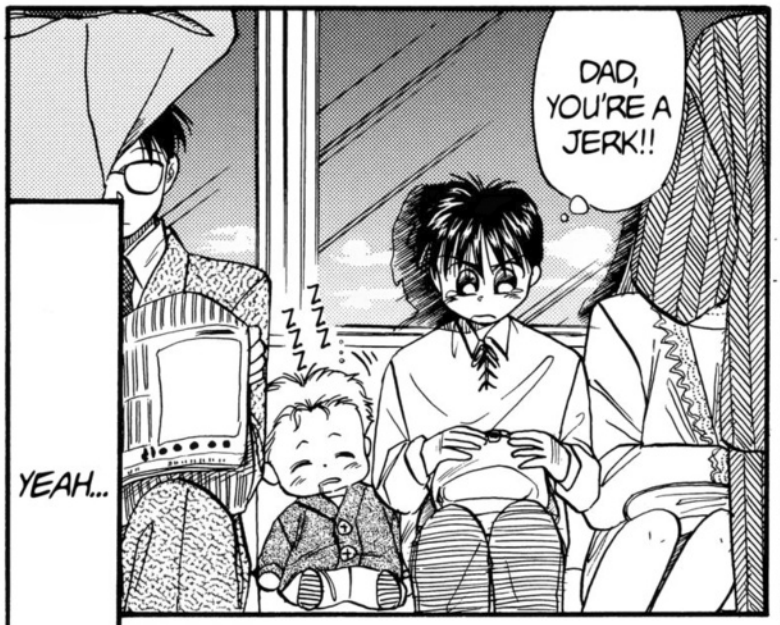

HUH?
DON'T BE LATE FOR WORK TOMORROW.

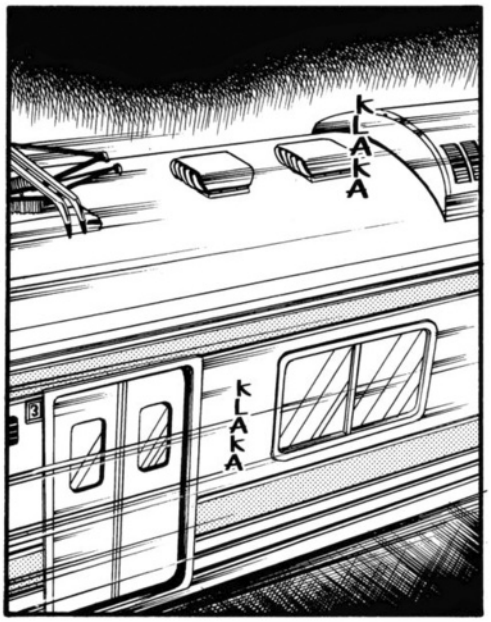

YES?
EDOMAE ...

NOTHING DID HAPPEN.
SHE'S WALKING AWAY LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED...

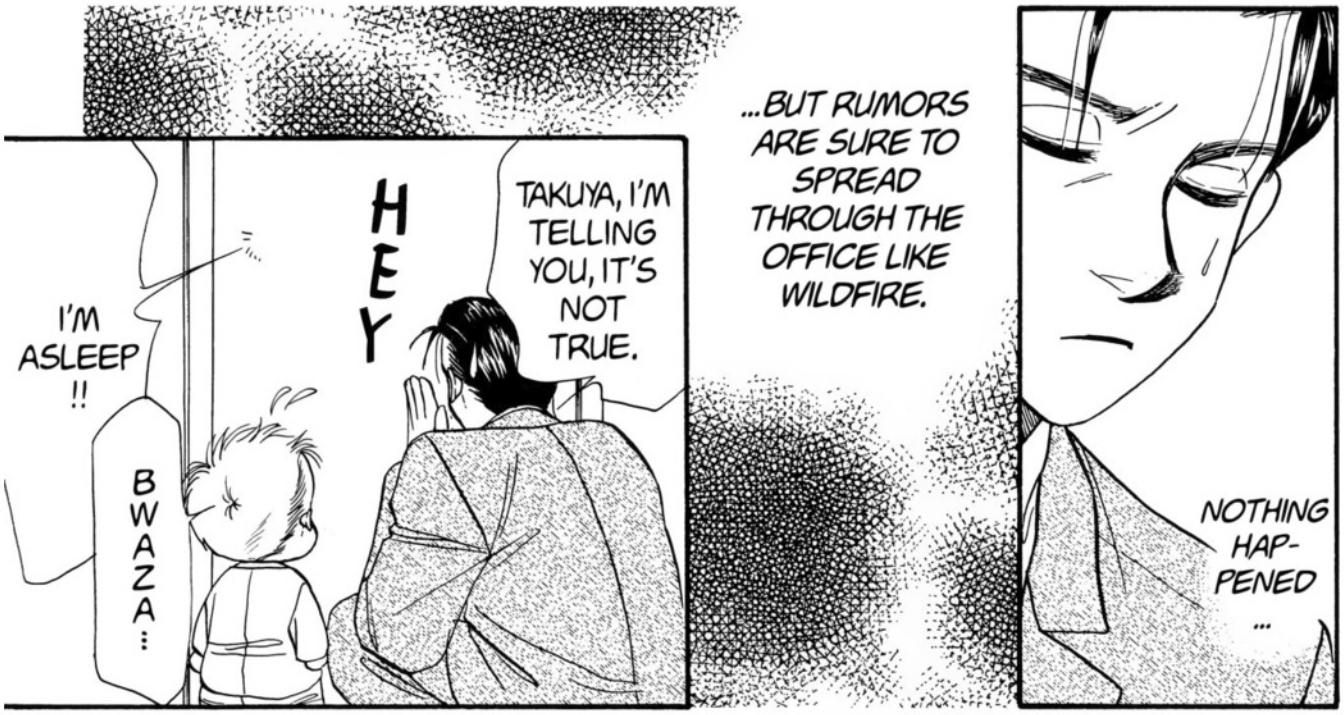
BUSINESS HOTEL
KLAK
KLAK

UH, GOOD NIGHT, MS. ANZAI.
GOOD NIGHT, CHIEF ENOKI.

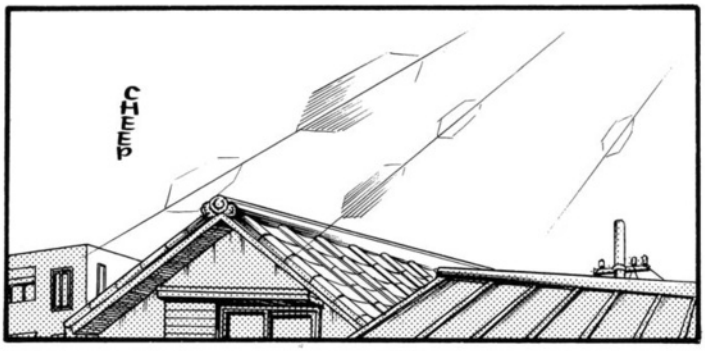

DAD, YOU'RE A JERK!!
ZZZZ...

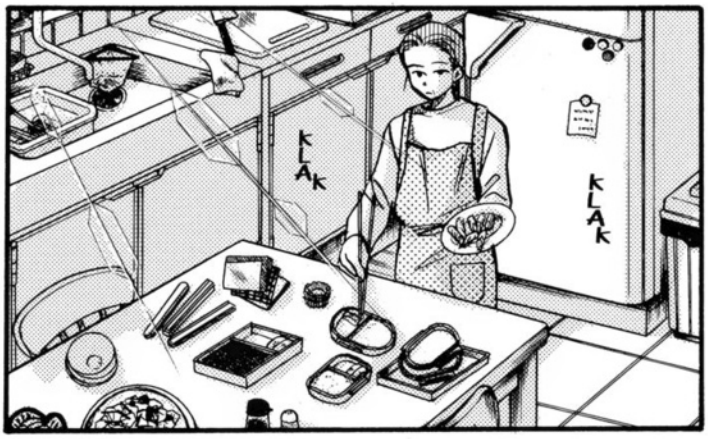

KLAKA
KLAKA

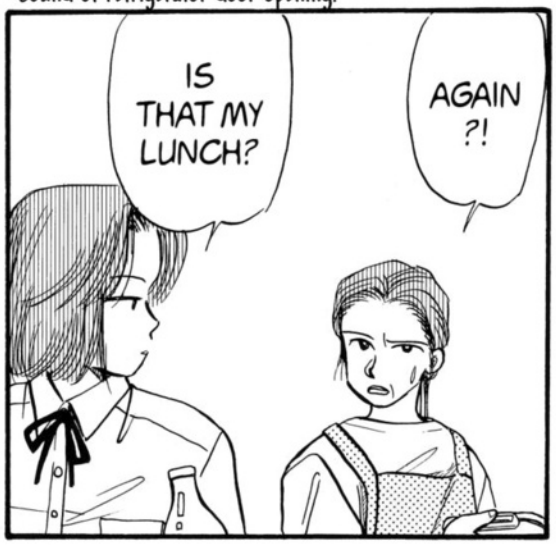
YEAH...

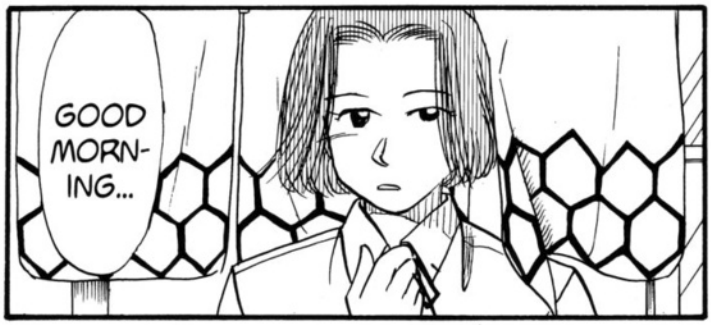


*Sound of refrigerator door opening.

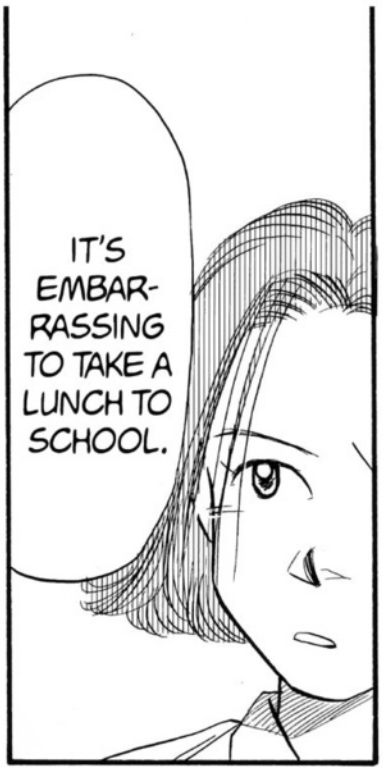


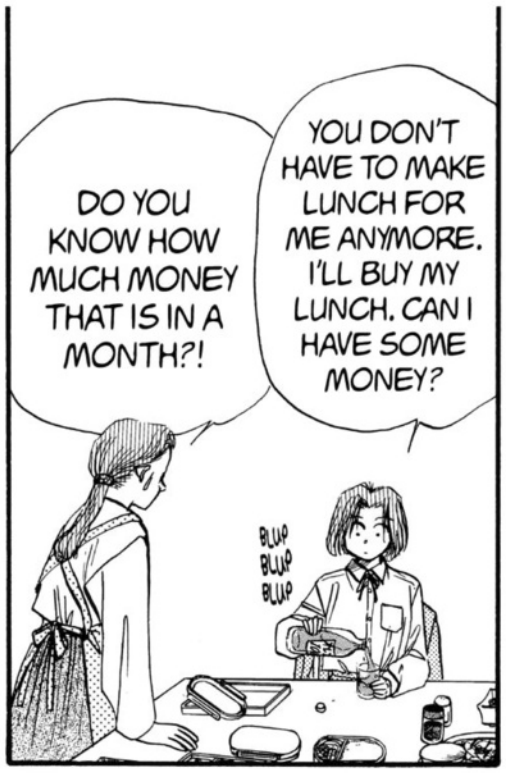






WHAT ?
IT'S JUST LUNCH MONEY. YOU BOTH WORK. ARE WE THAT POOR?


IT'S EMBAR-RASSING TO TAKE A LUNCH TO SCHOOL.


DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH MONEY THAT IS IN A MONTH?!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO MAKE LUNCH FOR ME ANYMORE. I'LL BUY MY LUNCH. CAN I HAVE SOME MONEY?
BLUP BLUP BLUP

THIS CHILD DOESN'T WANT TO TAKE HER LUNCH TO SCHOOL ANYMORE.
WHAT'S ALL THE SCREAMING ABOUT?

O-OKAY, TAKE IT EASY.
WHAM
I DON'T WORK BECAUSE WE'RE POOR!!

YOU GOT HOME LATE LAST NIGHT.
WHAT'LL THE NEIGHBORS THINK?

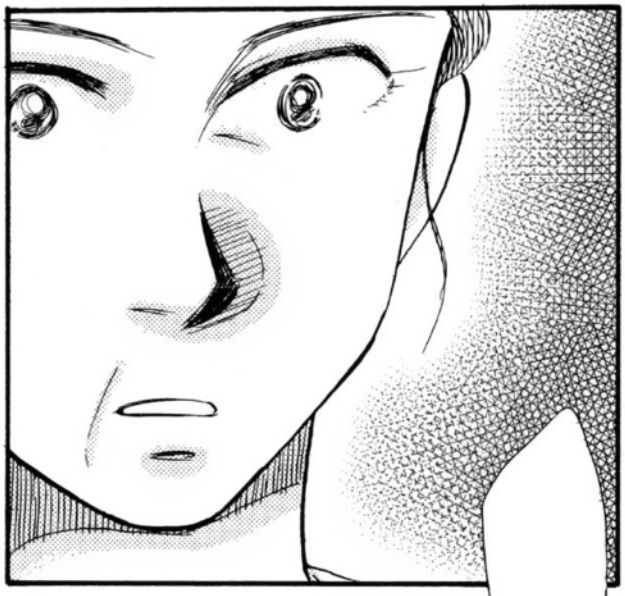
NEVER MIND THAT, RITSUKO ...

WHAT? IS THAT ALL?
IS THAT ALL?

COOKING IS A WIFE'S JOB.
WHAT? ME? NO WAY.

BUT... YOU COME HOME WHENEVER YOU WANT.
YES, BUT I HAD TO MAKE MY OWN DINNER. YOU KNOW I DON'T LIKE THAT.
AND RYOKO'S A GIRL. SHE CAN MAKE DINNER.

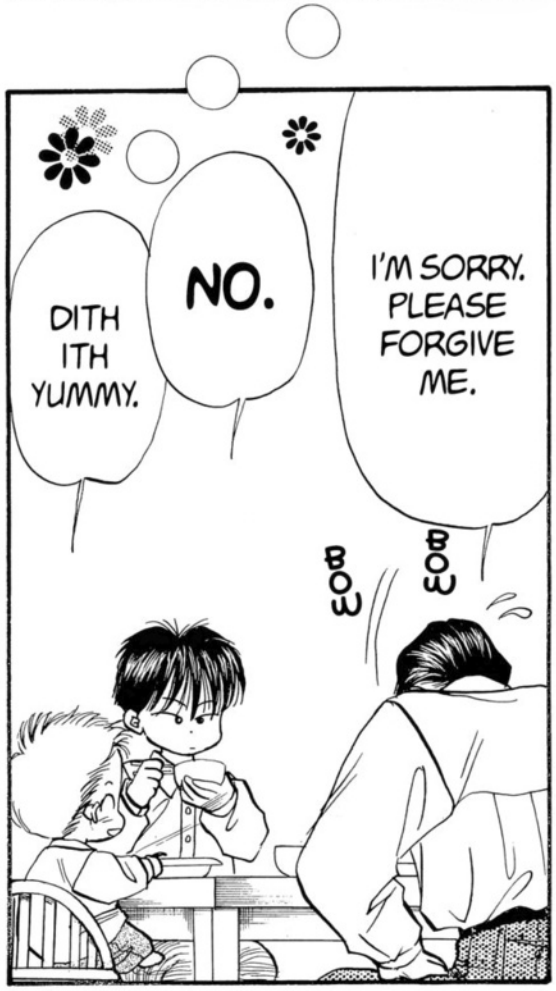
ANYWAY, IT WASN'T VERY LATE. I WAS HOME BY 10:00.
I HAD TO WORK LATE.



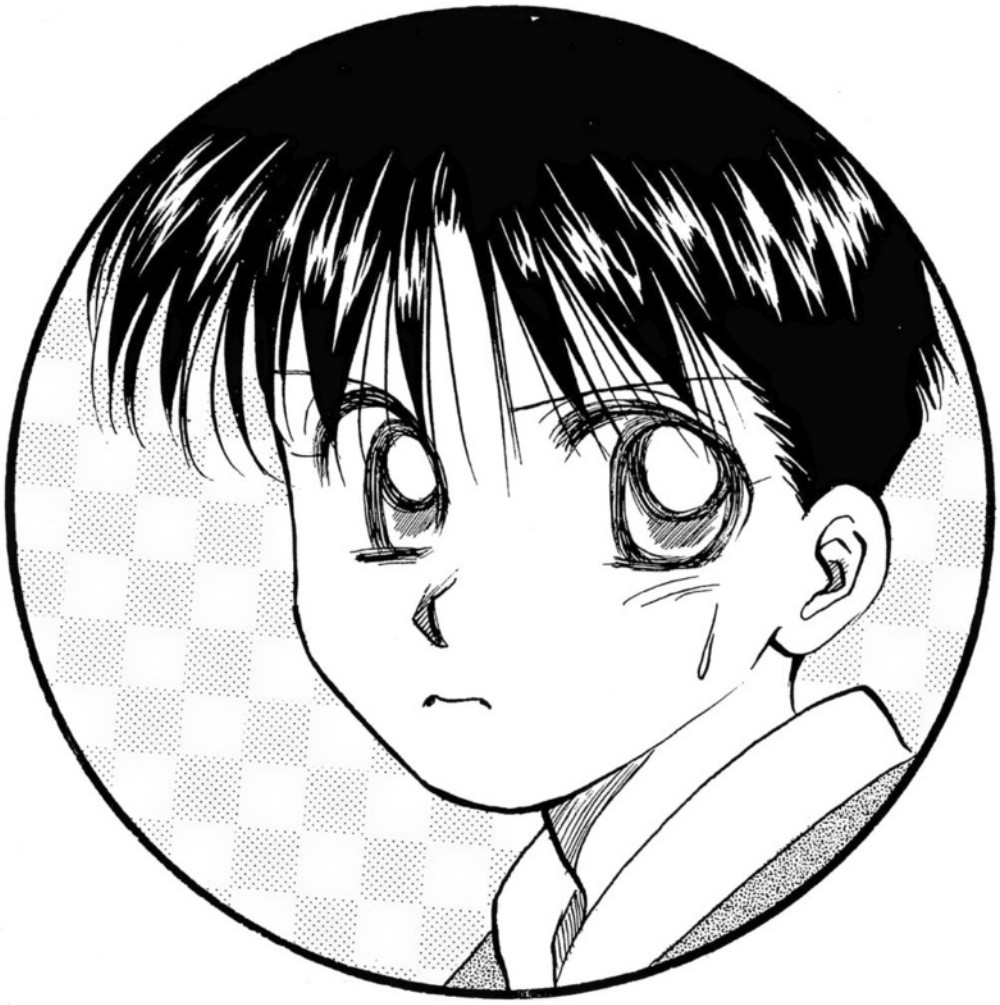
WH-WHAT ...?

THAT WAS ONE OF THE CONDITIONS FOR YOU GETTING A JOB.
IF YOU CAN'T HANDLE IT, YOU'D BETTER QUIT.

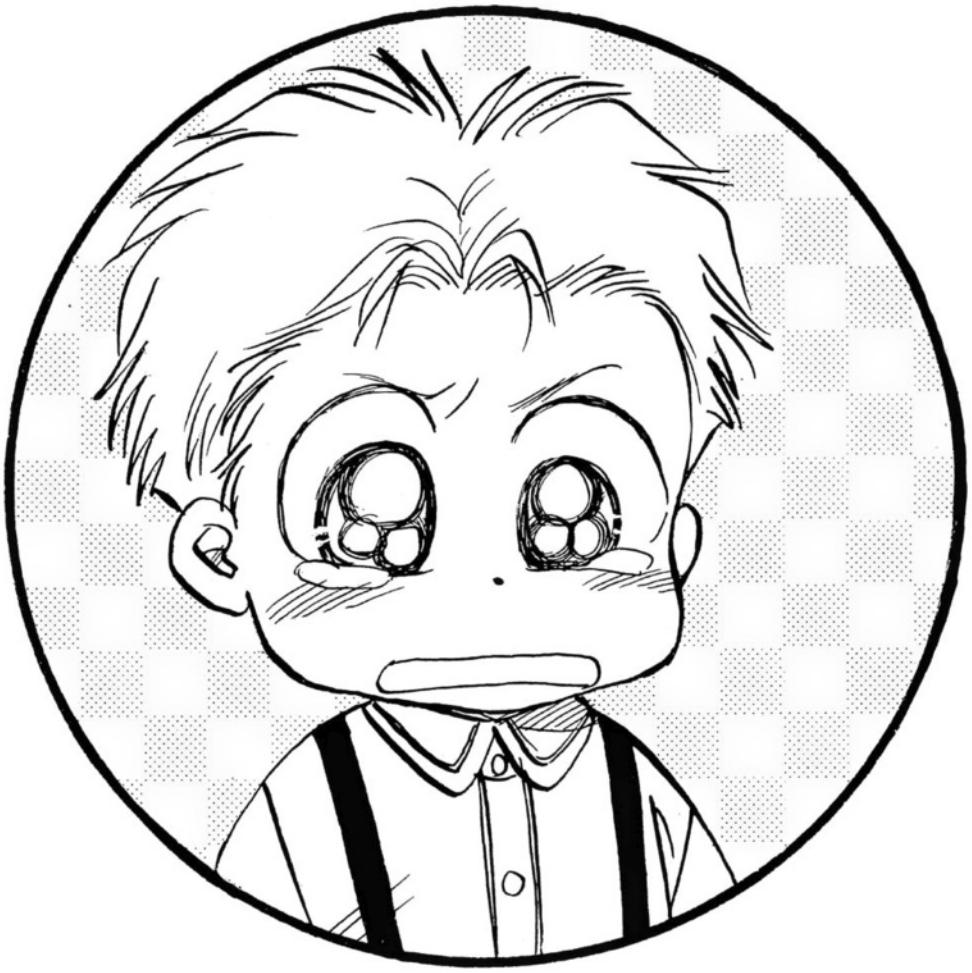
WHAT AM I TO YOU TWO?!



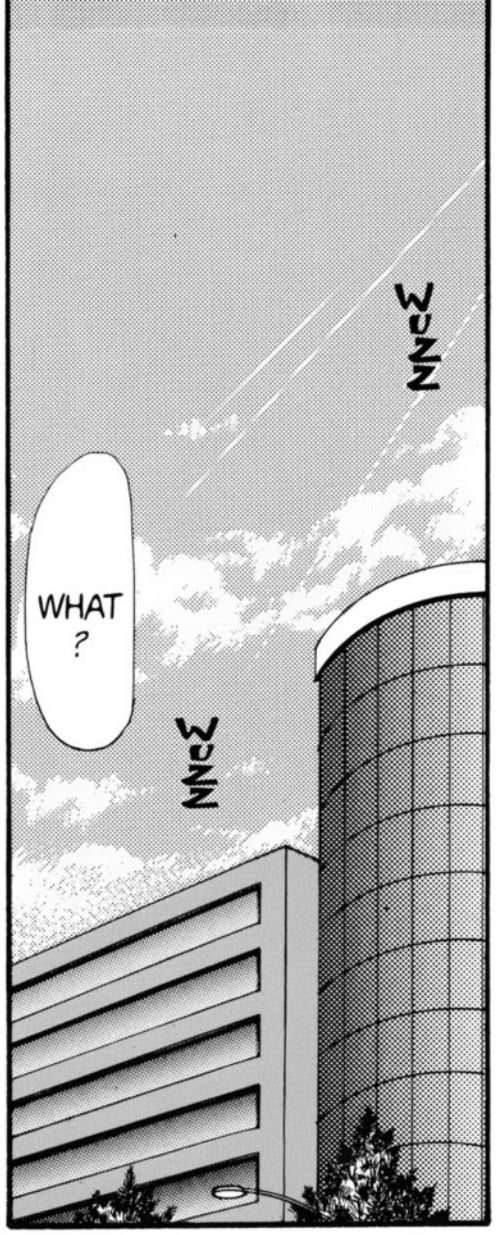
Chapter 49 / The End



BABY & Me
Chapter 50
Yo.



NO WAY...
WHISPER
BUT ISN'T MS. ANZAI MARRIED?
WHISPER

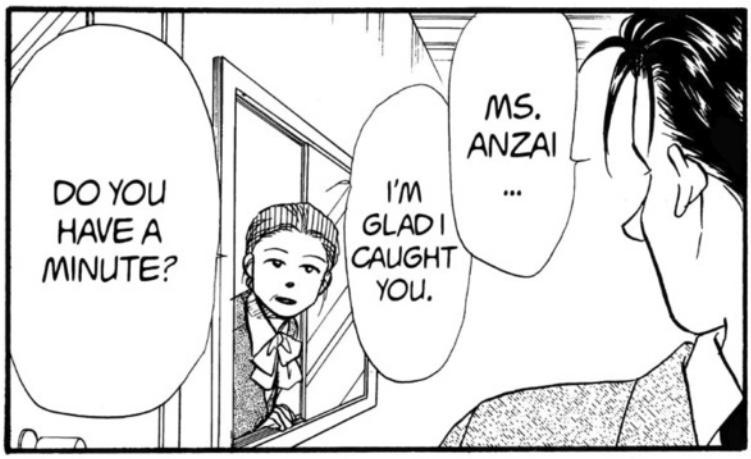

WUNN
WHAT ?
WUNN

I HEARD SHE'S BEEN COMING ON TO HIM...
WHISPER
YIKES ...
WHISPER
WHISPER

...

WIP
HIDE
HIDE

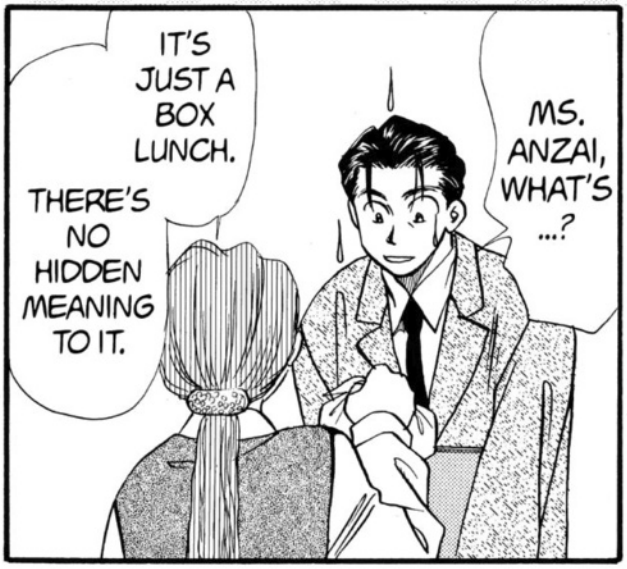
GEEZ ...
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
THE RUMORS ARE ALREADY FLYING.

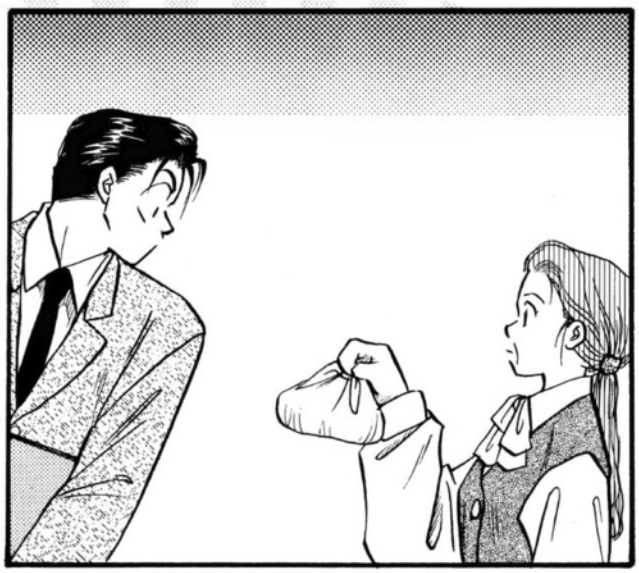

MS. ANZAI ...
I'M GLAD I CAUGHT YOU.
DO YOU HAVE A MINUTE?

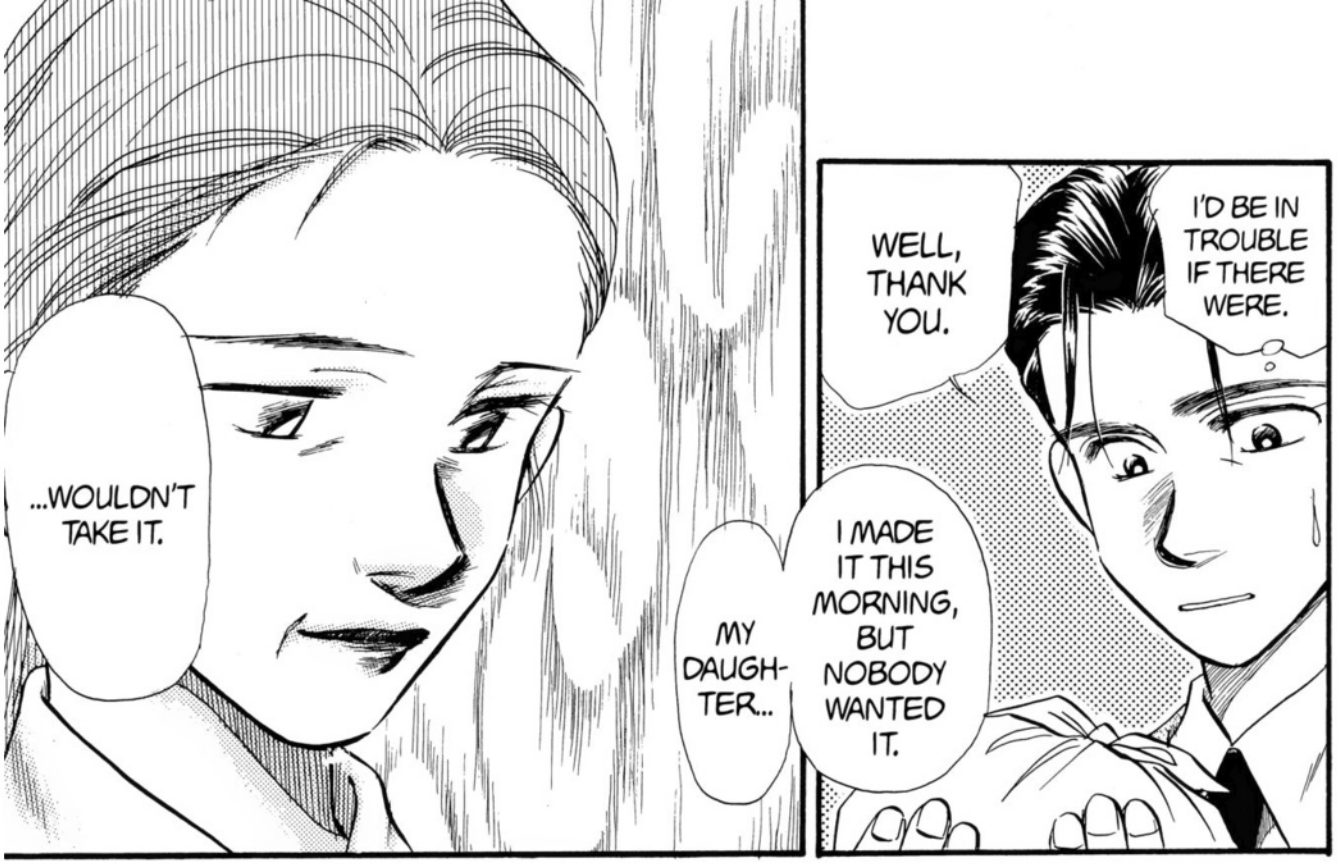
CHIEF ENOKI ...

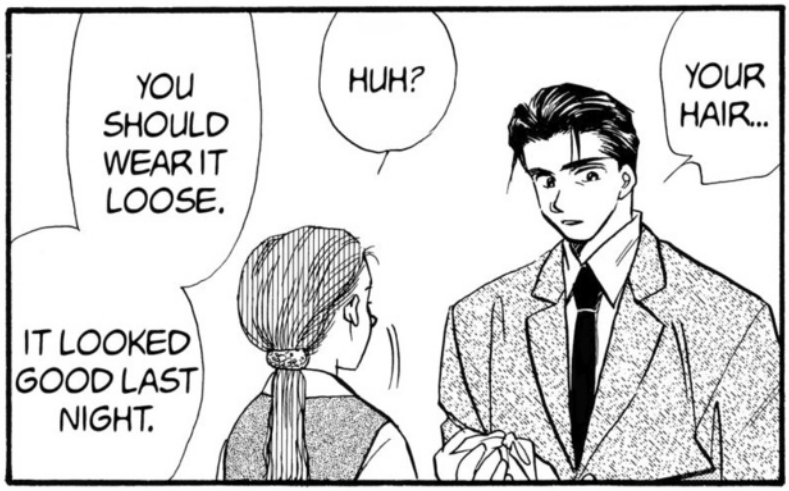
RATTLE
SWSHH

HERE.
THIS IS FOR YOU.


MS. ANZAI, WHAT'S ...?
IT'S JUST A BOX LUNCH.
THERE'S NO HIDDEN MEANING TO IT.




...WOULDN'T TAKE IT.
MY DAUGH-TER...
I MADE IT THIS MORNING, BUT NOBODY WANTED IT.
WELL, THANK YOU.
I'D BE IN TROUBLE IF THERE WERE.


YOU SHOULD WEAR IT LOOSE.
IT LOOKED GOOD LAST NIGHT.
HUH?
YOUR HAIR...

WELL, GOOD-BYE.

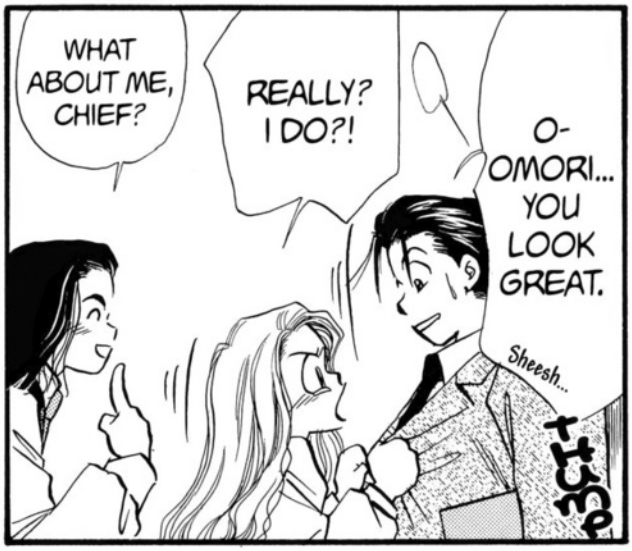
THAT'S ...
...JUST LIKE YOU.
I SEE.

IT GETS IN THE WAY...
...WHEN I'M WORK-ING.

WELL?! HOW DO I LOOK?!
WHAT ABOUT ME?!
DO I LOOK GOOD WITH MY HAIR LOOSE?!
WHAT ?!

CHIEF !!
DOOM

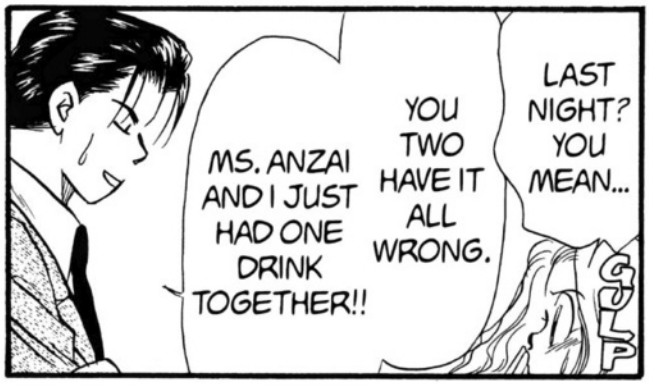
OH...
HOW CRUEL.
WHO CARES HOW YOU LOOK?
OH MY GOD!!

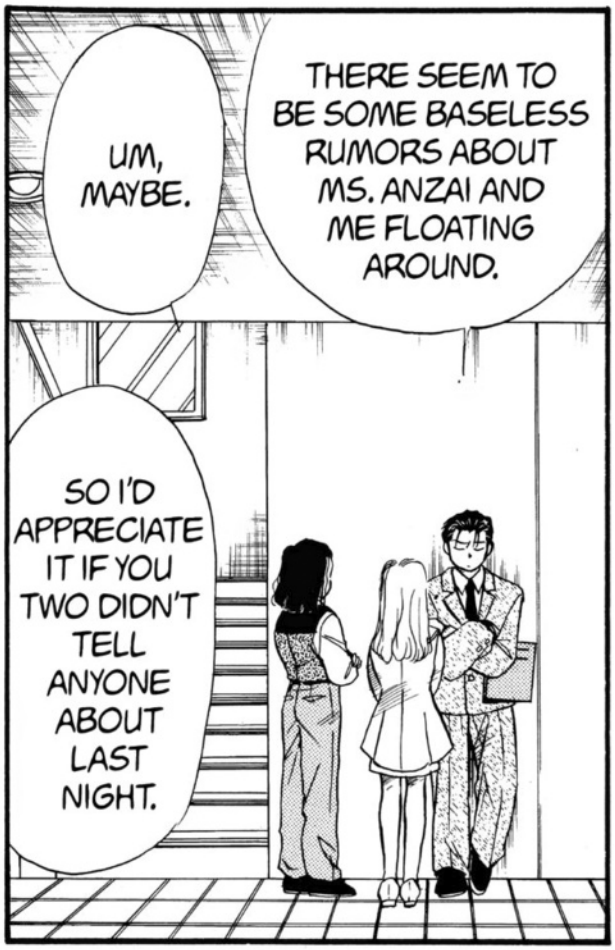

WHAT ABOUT ME, CHIEF?
REALLY? I DO?!
O-OMORI... YOU LOOK GREAT.
Sheesh...
tuff

WHAT DID WE DO?
YOU TWO, COME WITH ME.
whup
whup

THAT'S IT.
And when did you start flattering women?
YEAH.
WHERE'D YOU GET THE HOME-MADE LUNCH?

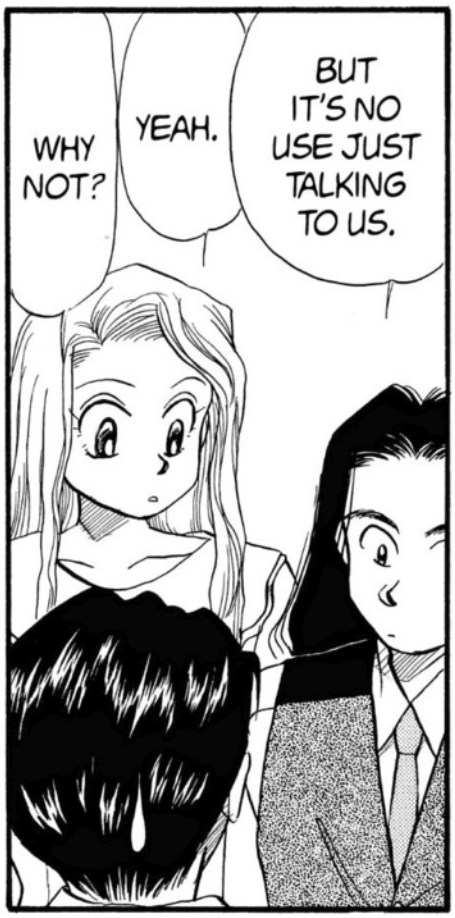
YOU'RE FULL OF SUR-PRISES LATELY, CHIEF.
HUH?

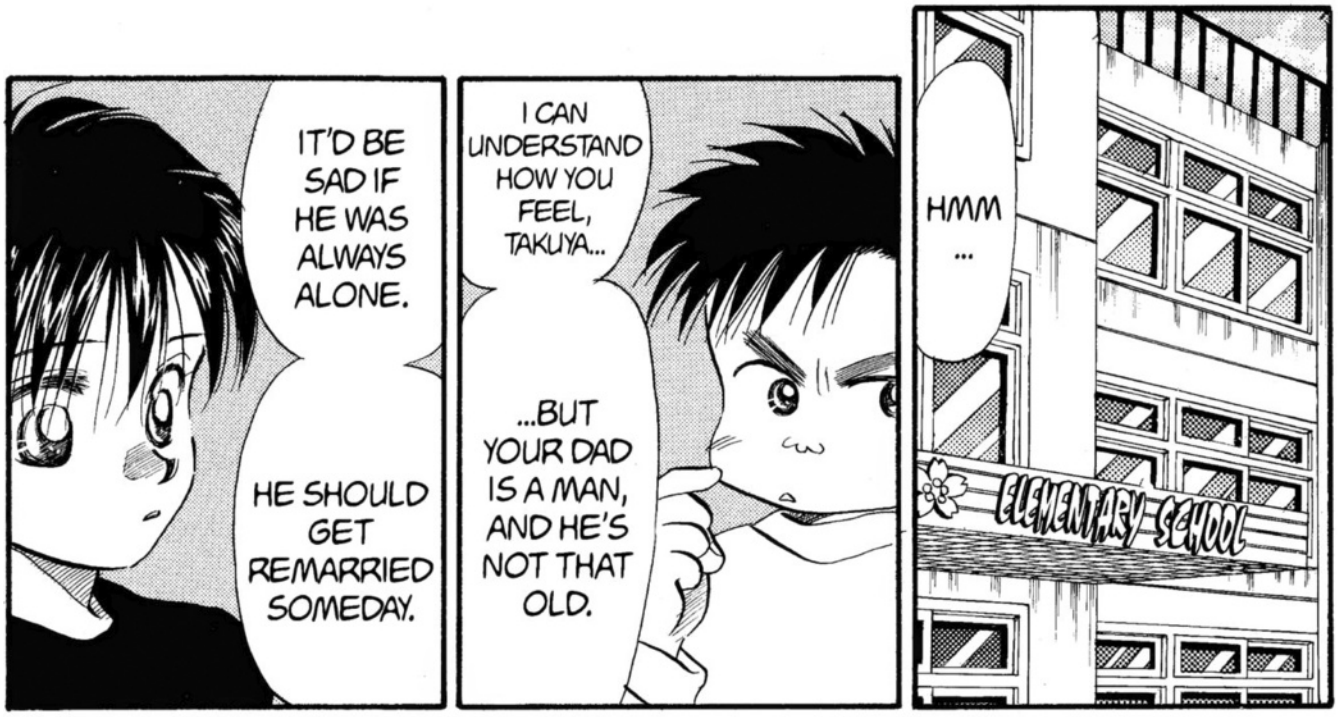

MS. ANZAI AND I JUST HAD ONE DRINK TOGETHER!!
YOU TWO HAVE IT ALL WRONG.
LAST NIGHT? YOU MEAN...
GULP

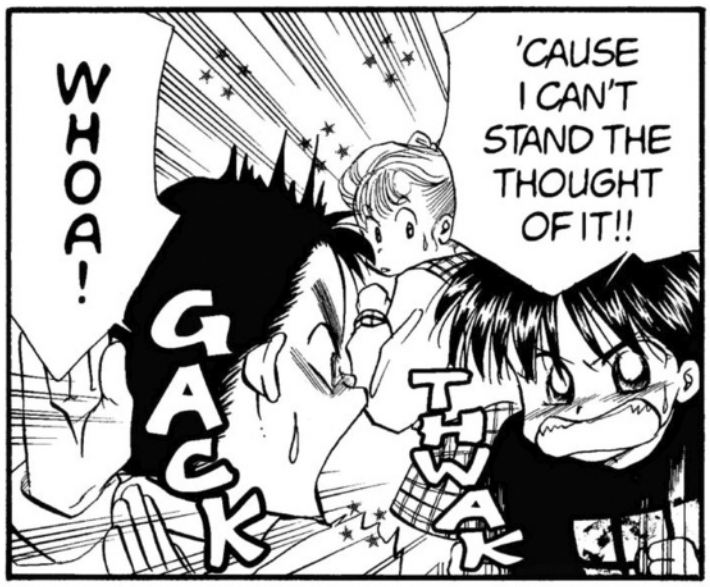

UM, MAYBE.
THERE SEEM TO BE SOME BASELESS RUMORS ABOUT MS. ANZAI AND ME FLOATING AROUND.
SO I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU TWO DIDN'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT LAST NIGHT.

I SAID, NOTHING HAPPENED! HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU THAT?!
IF THAT'S ALL IT WAS, WHY ARE YOU WORRIED? GUILTY CONSCIENCE?

YACK
YACK
THEY'RE HAVING AN AFFAIR?
'CAUSE THE WALKING LOUD-SPEAKER IS HERE.
THE CHIEF'S JUST TRYING TO PROTECT HER.
DEFI-NITELY!


WHY NOT?
YEAH.
BUT IT'S NO USE JUST TALKING TO US.


IT'D BE SAD IF HE WAS ALWAYS ALONE.
HE SHOULD GET REMARRIED SOMEDAY.
I CAN UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL, TAKUYA...
...BUT YOUR DAD IS A MAN, AND HE'S NOT THAT OLD.
HMM ...
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL


WHOA!
GACK
'CAUSE I CAN'T STAND THE THOUGHT OF IT!!
THWAK

THEN WHY DON'T YOU JUST TELL HIM, "CONGRATULATIONS!"?
I DON'T WANT HIM TO BE ALONE FOREVER.
OF COURSE ...
HO HO HO

WELL...
SWIFF

...
WHY NOT?

SOMEDAY I'LL BE OKAY WITH IT...
...BUT NOT NOW!

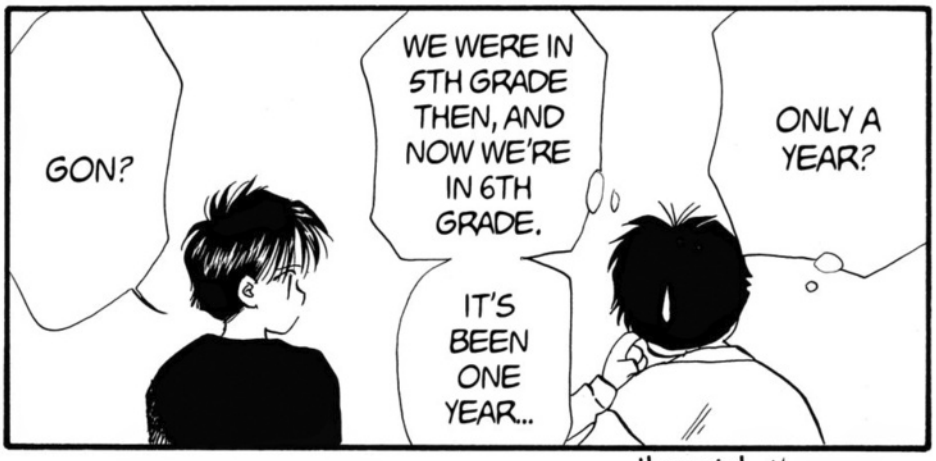
Author's Note: Part 6

Chapters 49 and 50 are dedicated to the mothers of the world. Of course, I hope that children will read them too.

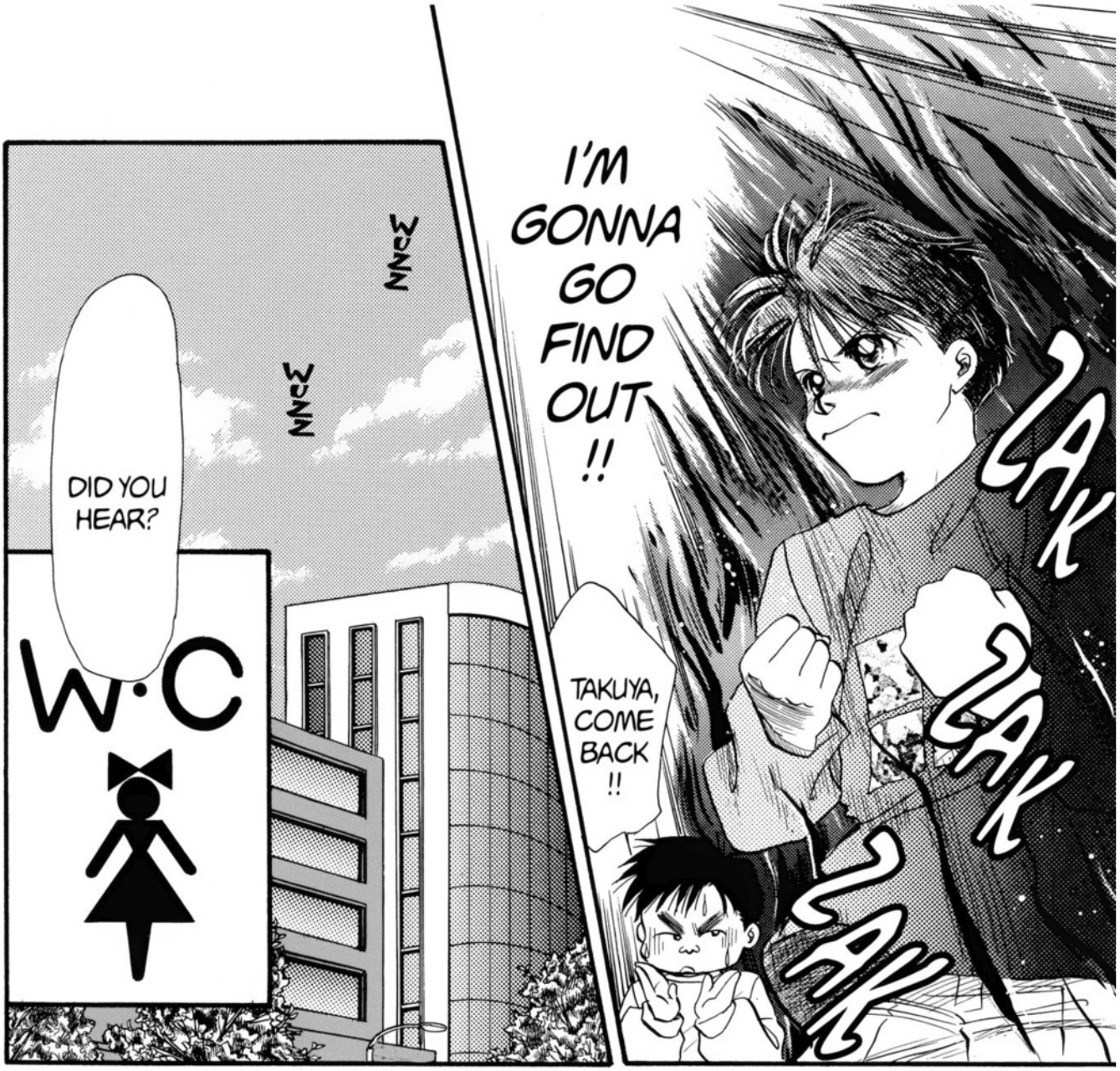
I include myself in this, but kids sometimes say terribly hurtful things to their parents. Now that I'm grown, I regret a lot of the cruel things I said as a child. Tsk, tsk... But I was just a kid...

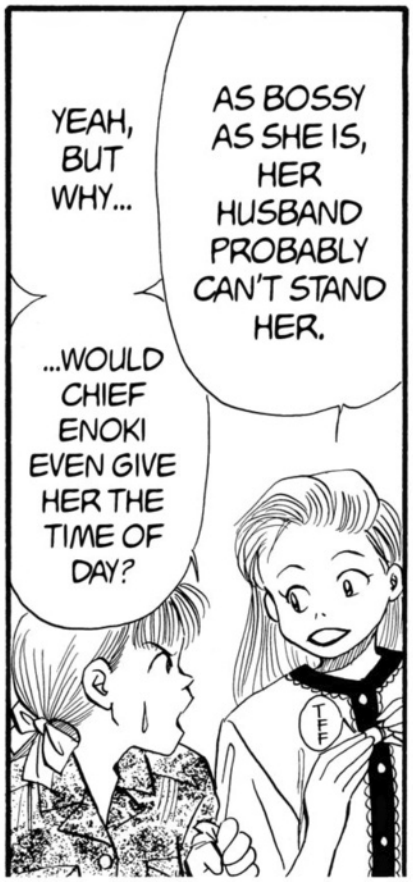
Notes on Chapter 50

My assistants told me that Takuya's dad looked sort of like a pervert when he got on the elevator with Ms. Anzai. Hmm... That's perverted?

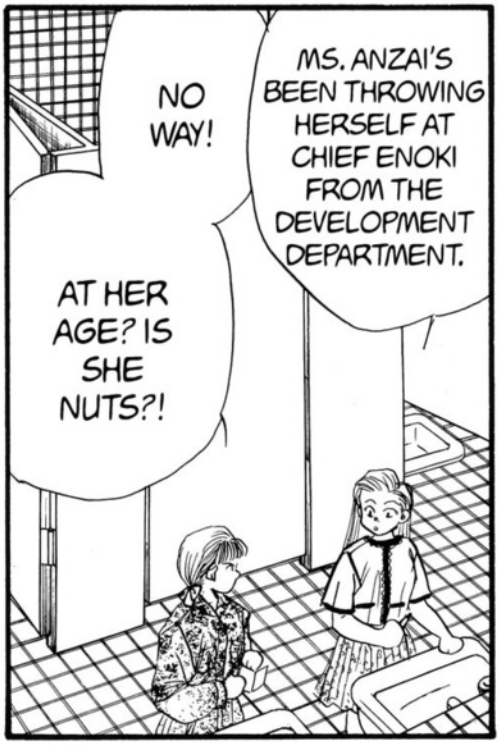


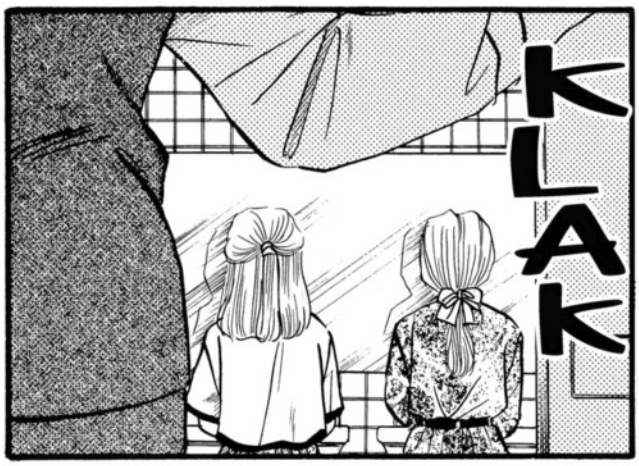
How weird...

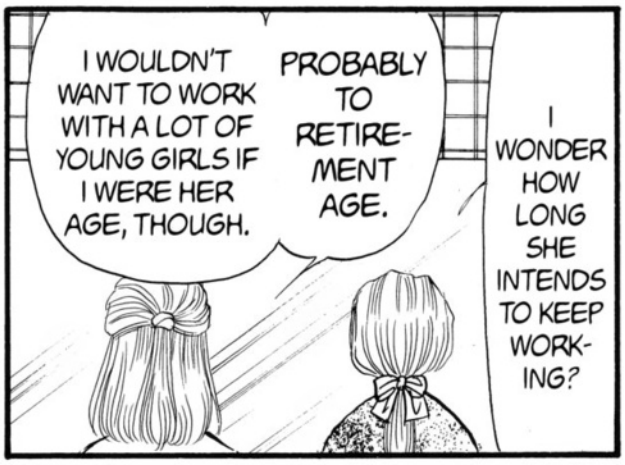

I'M GONNA GO FIND OUT !!
ZAK ZAK ZAK
TAKUYA, COME BACK !!
WUNN
WUNN
DID YOU HEAR?
W·C

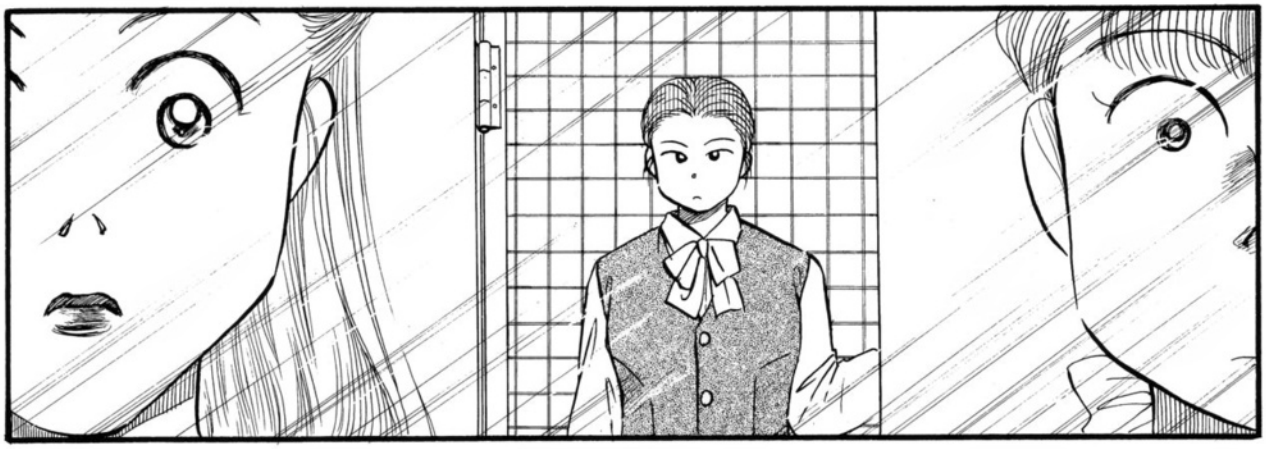

YEAH, BUT WHY...
AS BOSSY AS SHE IS, HER HUSBAND PROBABLY CAN'T STAND HER.
...WOULD CHIEF ENOKI EVEN GIVE HER THE TIME OF DAY?
TEE

HMM ...
BUT SHE'S MARRIED! ARE THEY HAVING AN AFFAIR?


NO WAY!
MS. ANZAI'S BEEN THROWING HERSELF AT CHIEF ENOKI FROM THE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.
AT HER AGE? IS SHE NUTS?!


KLAK


I WOULDN'T WANT TO WORK WITH A LOT OF YOUNG GIRLS IF I WERE HER AGE, THOUGH.
PROBABLY TO RETIRE-MENT AGE.
I WONDER HOW LONG SHE INTENDS TO KEEP WORK-ING?

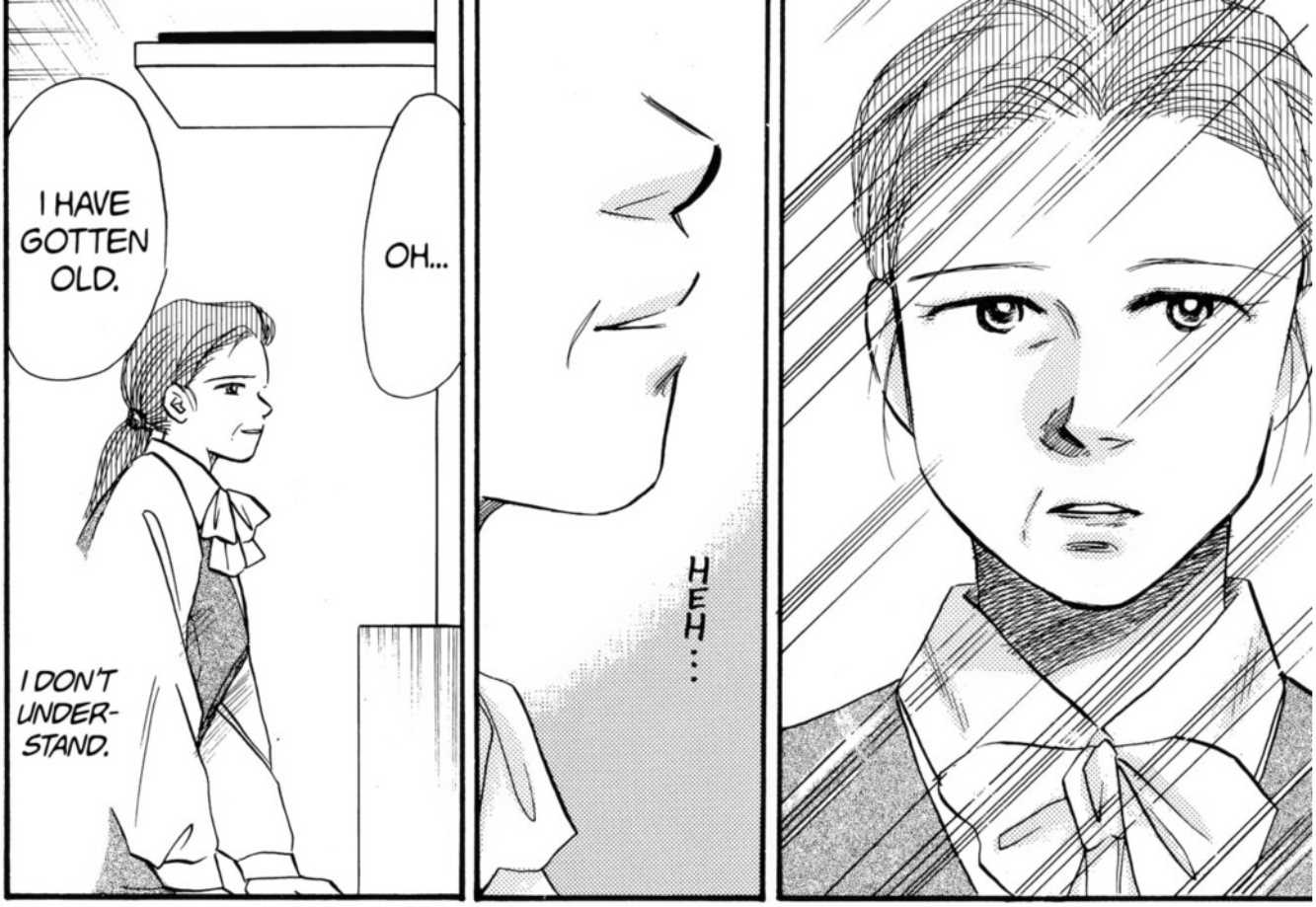


THROW-ING MYSELF AT HIM?

WOOSH
KSHHH

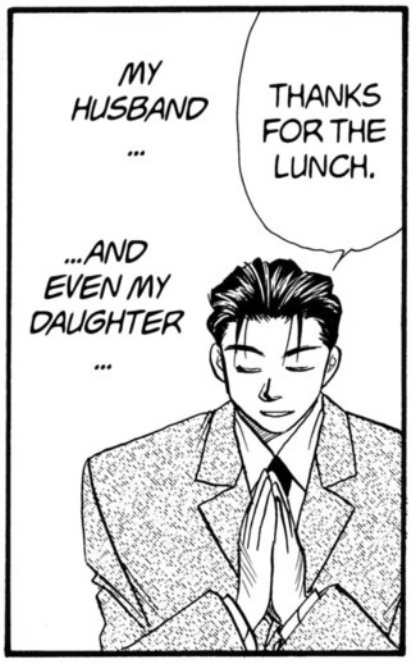
YEAH, GOOD IDEA.
WE'D BETTER GET BACK TO WORK.

AND WHAT'S WRONG WITH WORKING UNTIL RETIREMENT AGE?
MY HUSBAND CAN'T STAND ME?
IS THAT WHAT THEY THINK?
THOSE STUPID GIRLS...


I HAVE GOTTEN OLD.
OH...
I DON'T UNDER-STAND.
HEH...

ISN'T THERE...
...
ANYONE WHO...?
WUNN
WUNN

...THE MORE THEY HATE ME.
KLAK
THE HARDER I WORK...


MY HUSBAND ...
...AND EVEN MY DAUGHTER ...
THANKS FOR THE LUNCH.

OH.
A bean jam bun for dessert.
THIS LOOKS DELI-CIOUS. ♡

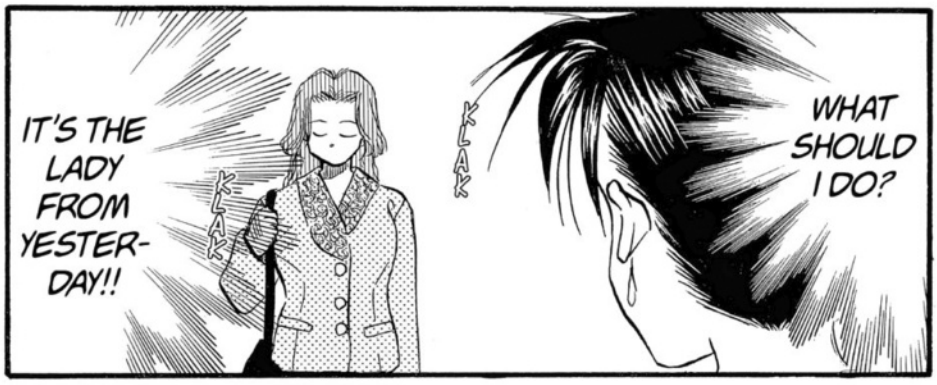
Author's Note: Part 7

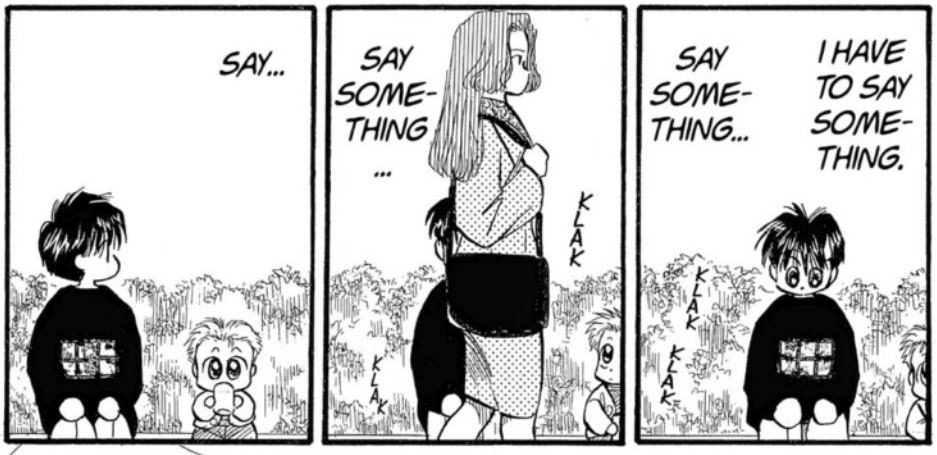
My "Marimo Ragawa's Let Me Draw What I Want" section in volume 8 got good reviews. I didn't have room for it in this volume, but I'll save a page in the next one.

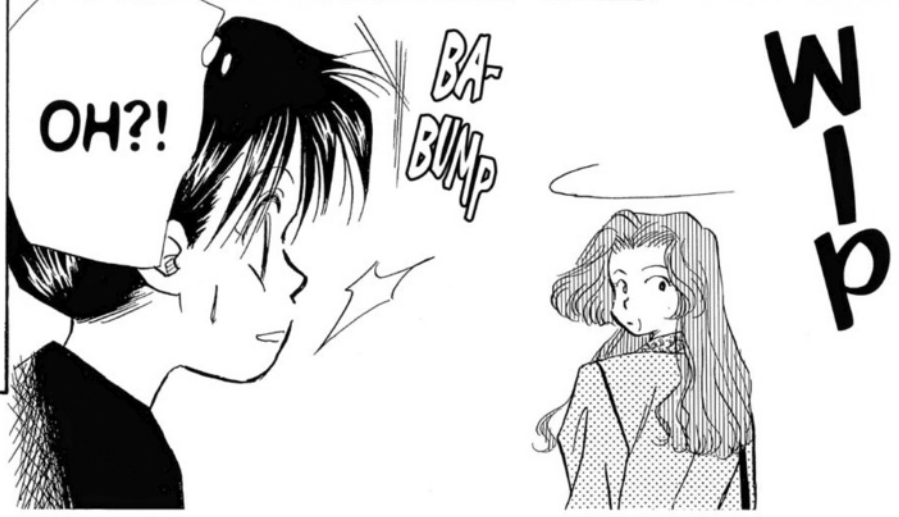
▨ Regarding my fan letters: Thank you very much for all your letters, but a word of caution. Please don't send things like cards or comics for me to autograph or to draw illustrations on. (Or money.♪) I can't be responsible for them. I'm sorry.

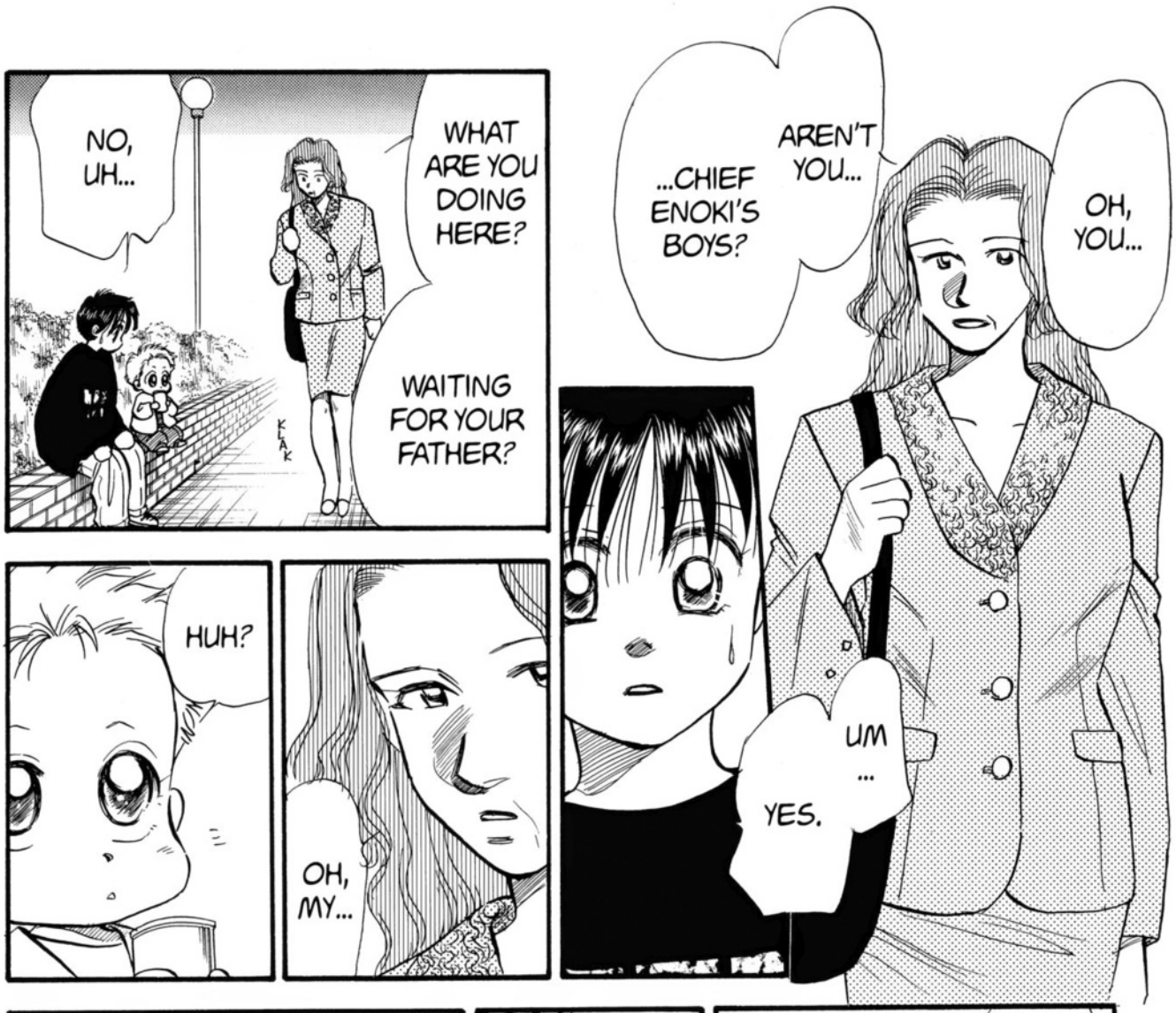
This may sound mean, but I get letters from a lot of people and I really can't give anyone special treatment. Please try to understand. BOW

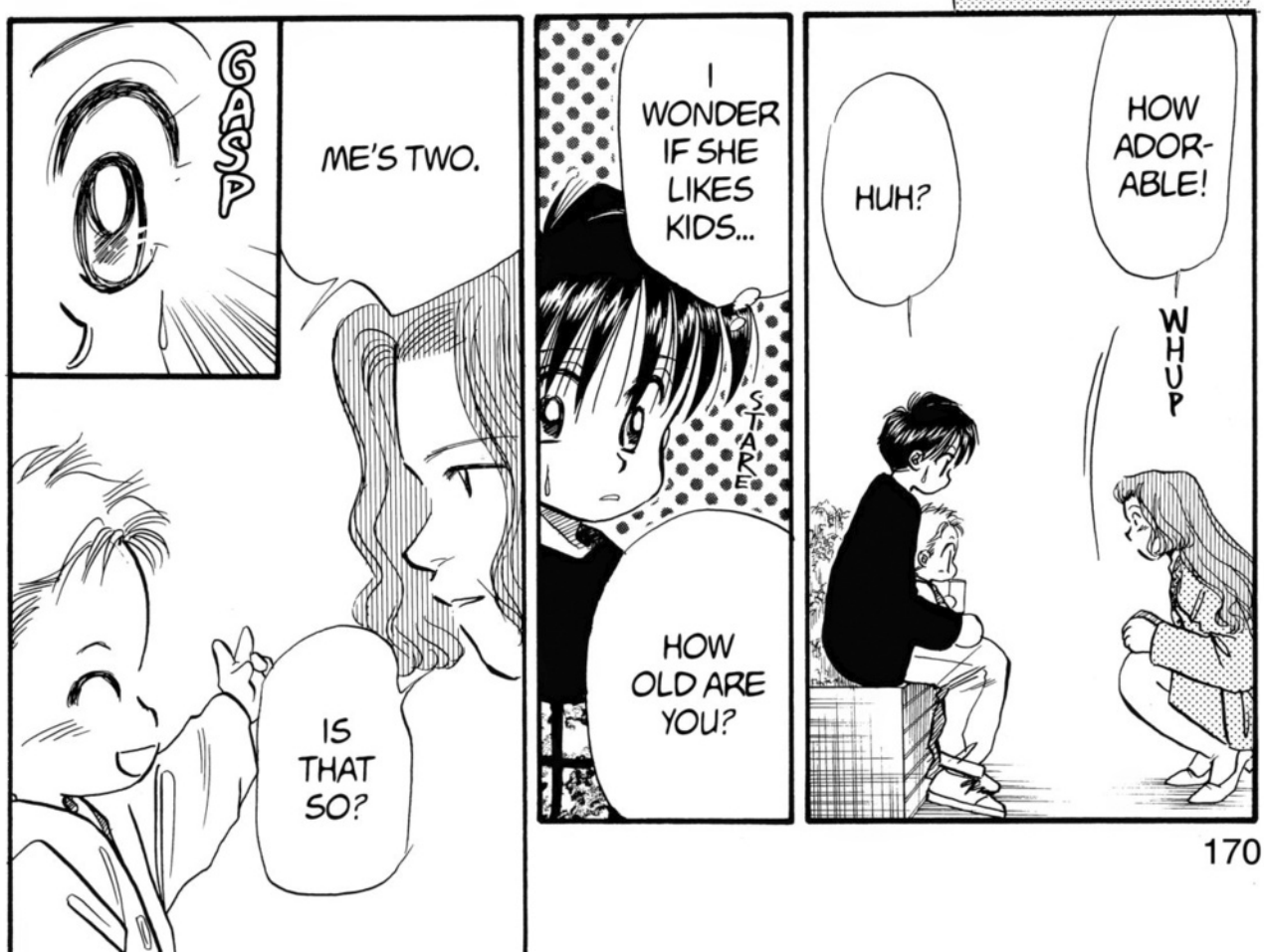
Well, that's it for volume 9. See you again in volume 10! (Oh, I'm into double digits. Hooray!)








WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
NO, UH...
WAITING FOR YOUR FATHER?
KLAK
OH, YOU...
AREN'T YOU...
...CHIEF ENOKI'S BOYS?
UM ...
YES.
HUH?
OH, MY...


HOW ADOR-ABLE!
WHUP
HUH?
I WONDER IF SHE LIKES KIDS...
STARE
HOW OLD ARE YOU?
ME'S TWO.
GASP
IS THAT SO?

WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH OUR FATHER?!

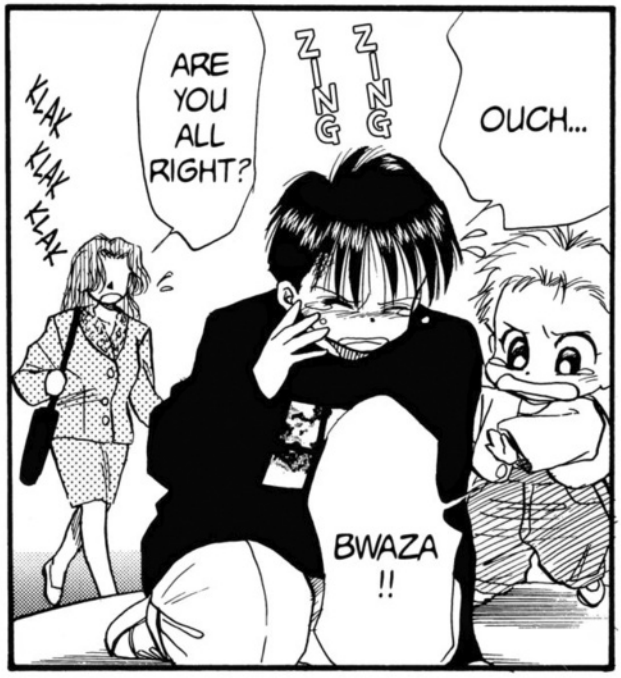
WHAT...
WIN HIM OVER ?

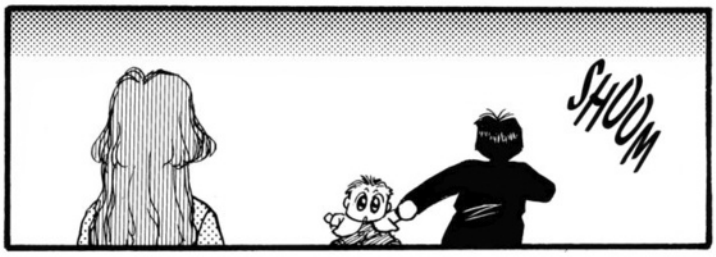
...TRY TO WIN MINORU OVER!!
DON'T ...
SWUP

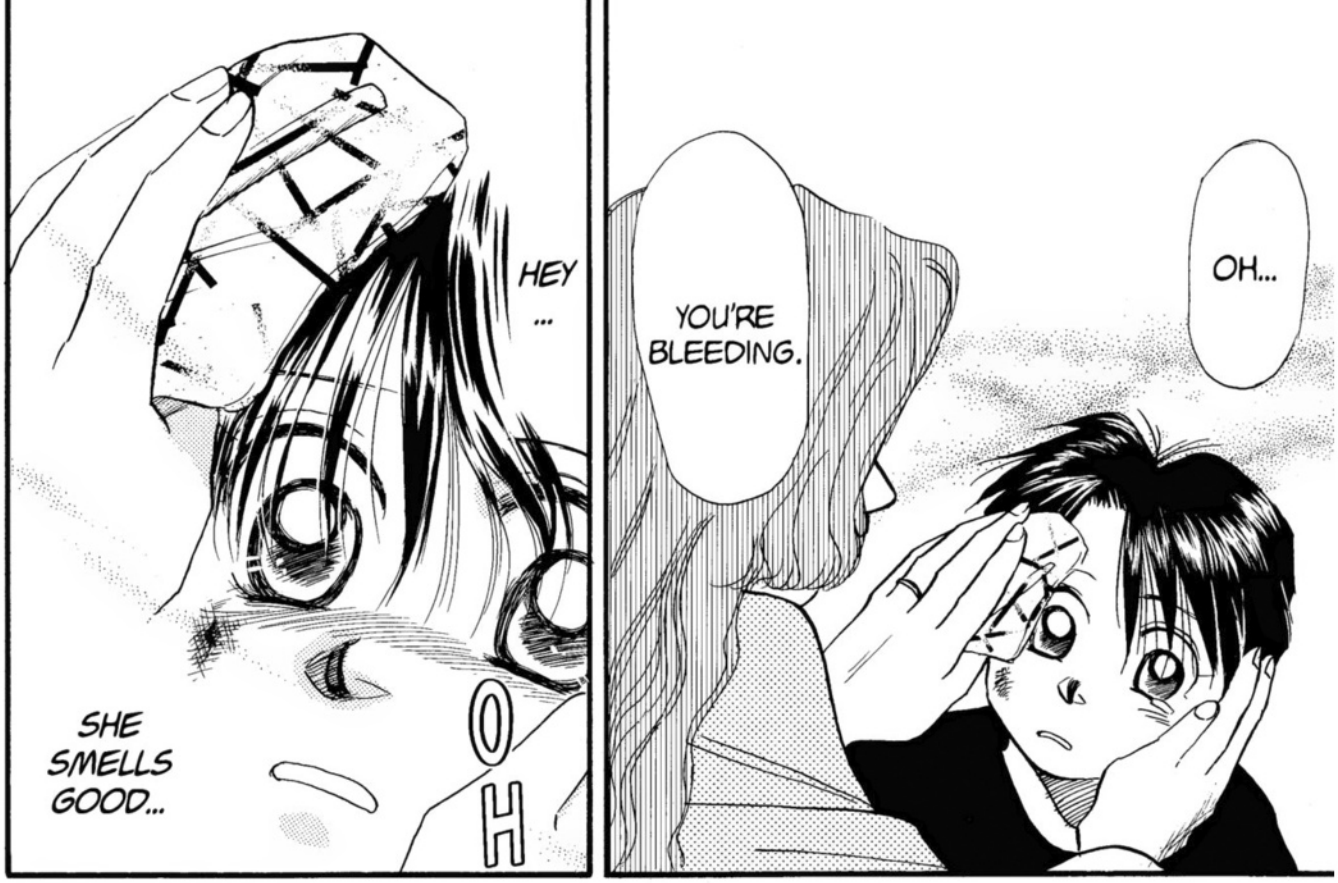
TRIP
FWUMP

I DON'T ...
HUH?

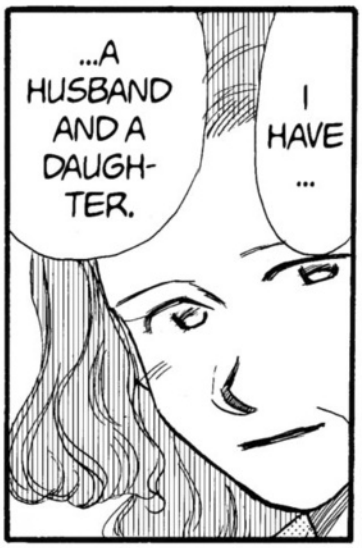
I DON'T WANT HIM TO GET REMAR-RIED!!


KLAK KLAK KLAK
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
ZING ZING
OUCH...
BWAZA !!


SHOOM

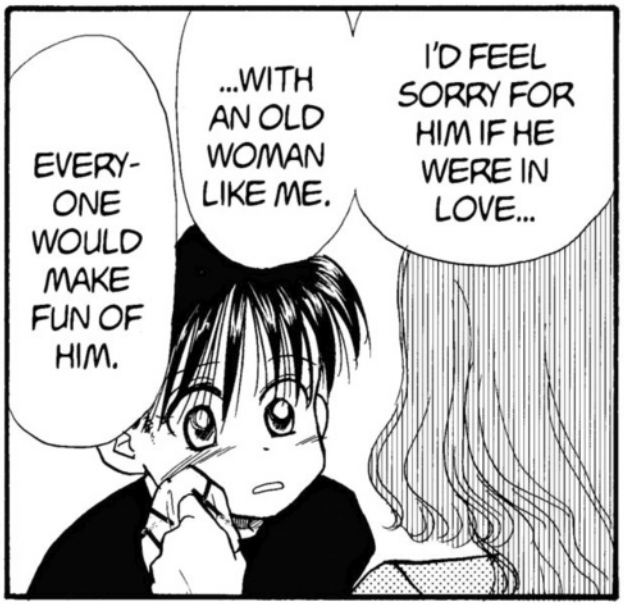

HEY ...
SHE SMELLS GOOD...
OH
YOU'RE BLEEDING.
OH...

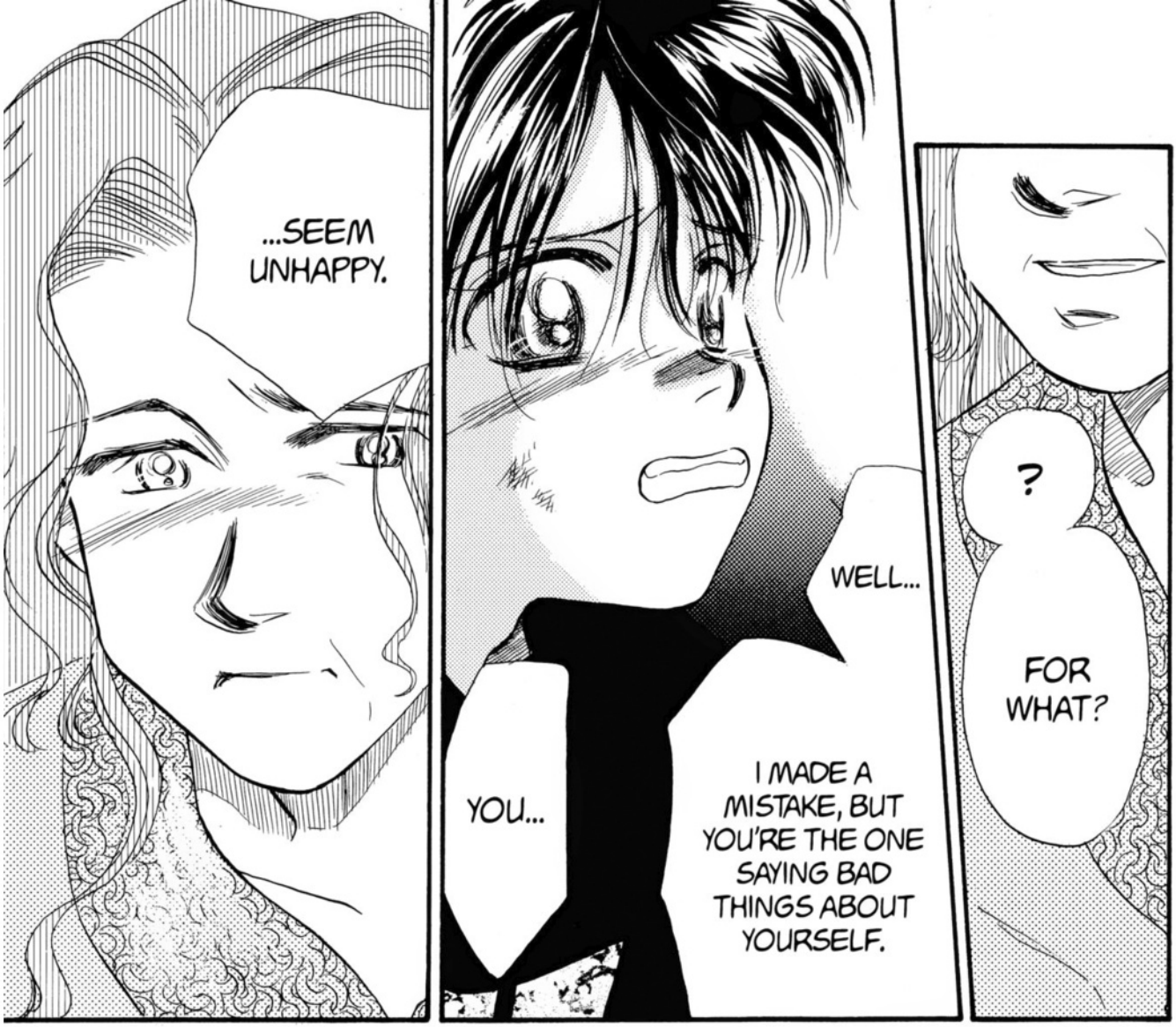
YOU DO?
BE-SIDES ...
...I'M TOO OLD FOR YOUR FATHER.

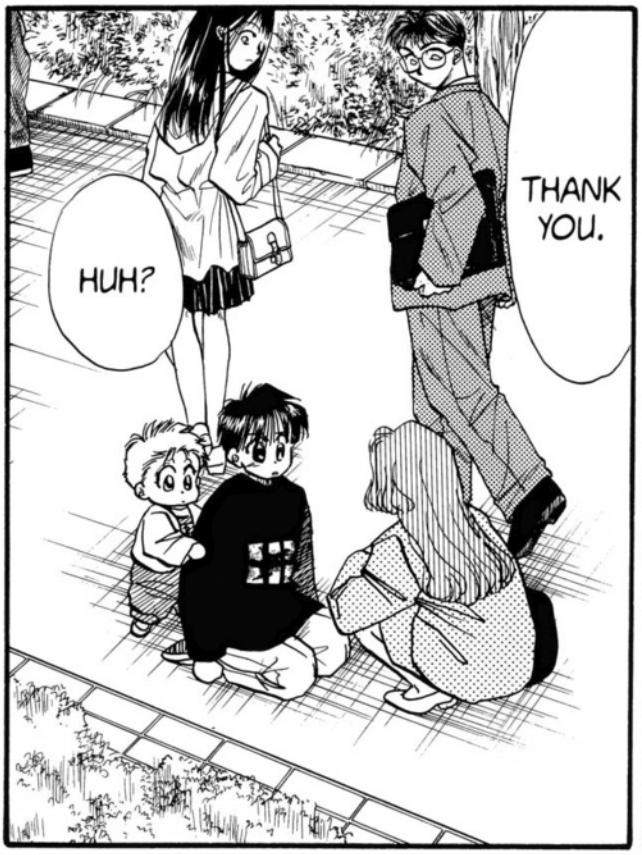

I HAVE ...
...A HUSBAND AND A DAUGH-TER.

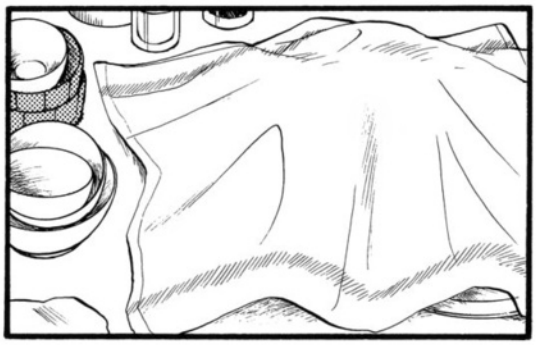
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY.
?

...
I'M SORRY.


I'D FEEL SORRY FOR HIM IF HE WERE IN LOVE...
...WITH AN OLD WOMAN LIKE ME.
EVERY-ONE WOULD MAKE FUN OF HIM.


...SEEM UNHAPPY.
YOU...
WELL...
I MADE A MISTAKE, BUT YOU'RE THE ONE SAYING BAD THINGS ABOUT YOURSELF.
?
FOR WHAT?


HUH?
THANK YOU.

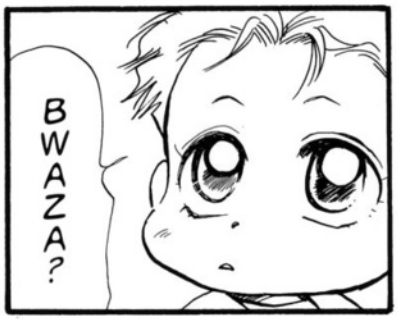


WHERE ARE THOSE KIDS?
I CAME HOME EARLY FOR THEM.

A REALLY GOOD CHILD...
...ISN'T ONE WHO GETS GOOD GRADES AND NEVER CAUSES TROUBLE.
IT'S ONE WHO UNDERSTANDS THE PAIN OF OTHERS.

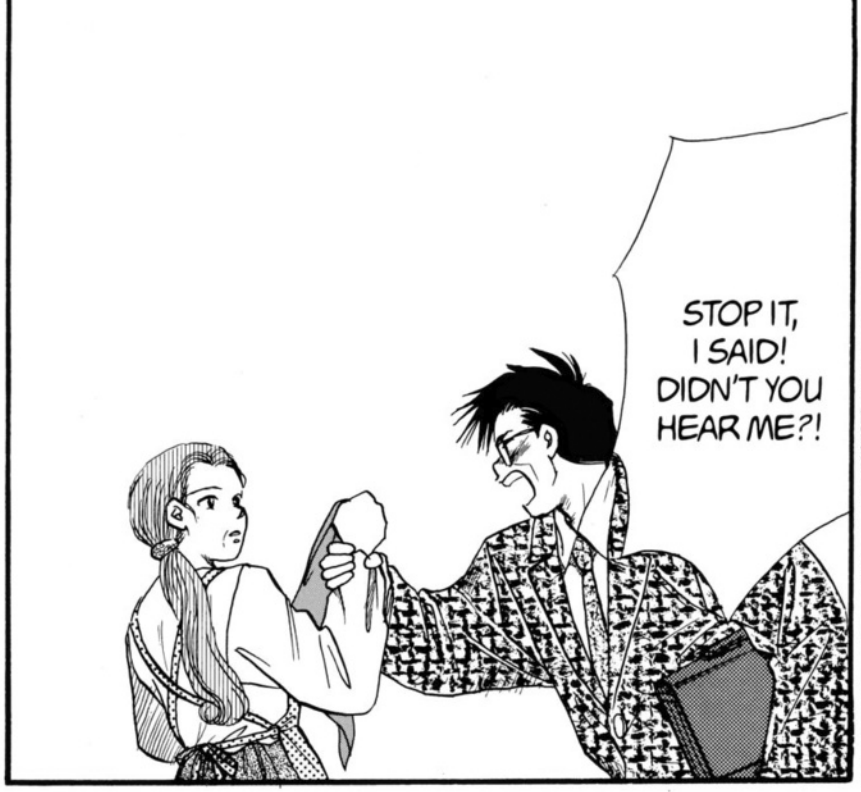
...

CHIEF ENOKI IS A LUCKY MAN.
WUNN
WUNN


BWAZA?

I'M HOME.
I HOME!
WHERE HAVE YOU TWO BEEN?
TAKUYA, WHAT HAP-PENED TO YOU?!
I FELL DOWN.

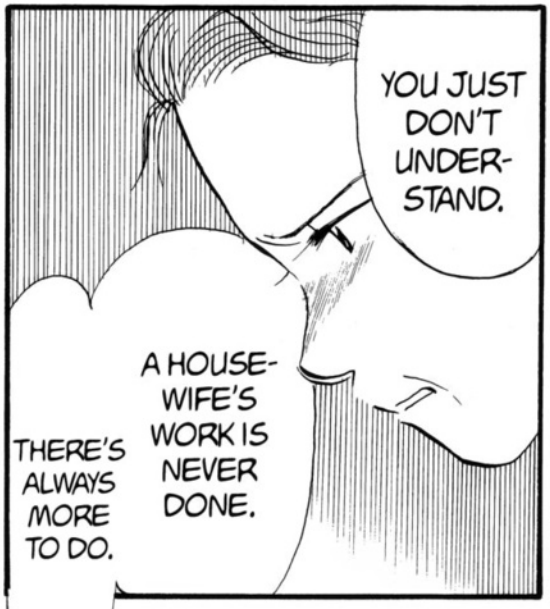
WHAK
HUH?


STOP IT, I SAID! DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME?!

KLANK

FORGET THIS NONSENSE!
THE LAUNDRY ...

OH...
FUUMP

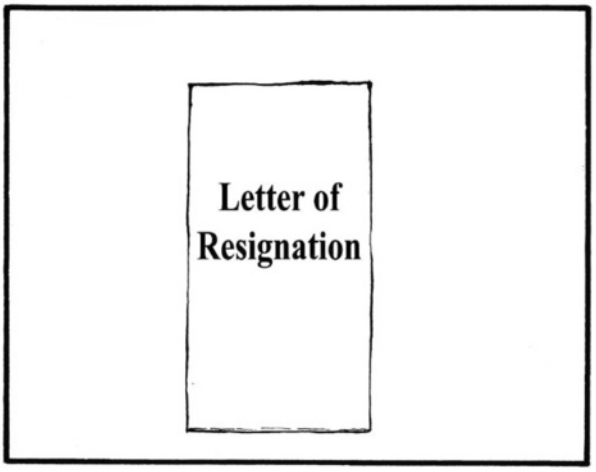

YOU JUST DON'T UNDER-STAND.
A HOUSE-WIFE'S WORK IS NEVER DONE.
THERE'S ALWAYS MORE TO DO.

NOW I...
...HAVE TO WASH IT AGAIN.

NON-SENSE?

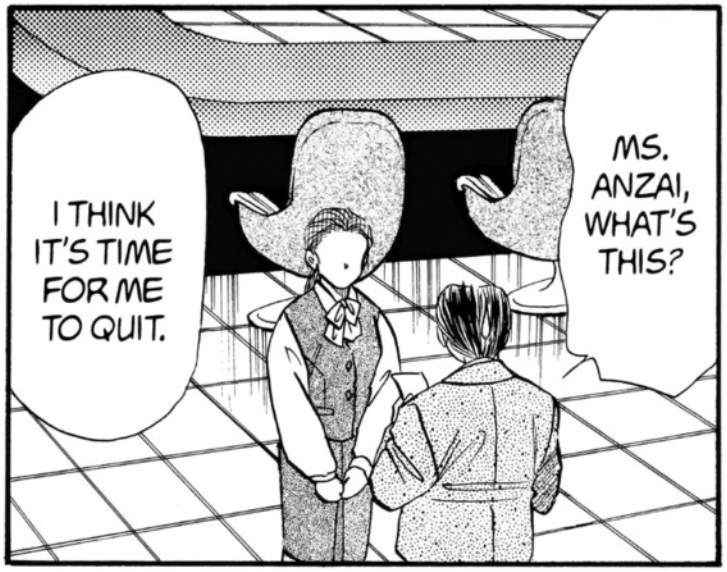
WELL...
THIS IS THE LIFE YOU CHOSE.
I'M TIRED.
CAN'T YOU SEE?
...
I WORK ALL DAY, THEN I COME HOME TO MORE WORK.
IT'S DEPRESS-ING.
OH DEAR ...
I GUESS ...
...IN FRONT OF YOUR CHILD!
STOP FIGHT-ING...
IT'S DISGRACE-FUL AND I HATE IT!
WILL YOU TWO STOP IT?

WHY HAVE I BEEN TRYING SO HARD?
IT'S NO FUN AT ALL.


Letter of Resignation

...FOR A LONG TIME NOW.
...THINGS HAVEN'T BEEN RIGHT...

IT'S NOT A REQUEST.
BUT I CAN'T ACCEPT THIS UNTIL I'VE CONFERRED WITH THE PRESIDENT.
I WONDERED WHY YOU ASKED TO SEE ME SO FORMALLY.
BLUNTLY


I THINK IT'S TIME FOR ME TO QUIT.
MS. ANZAI, WHAT'S THIS?

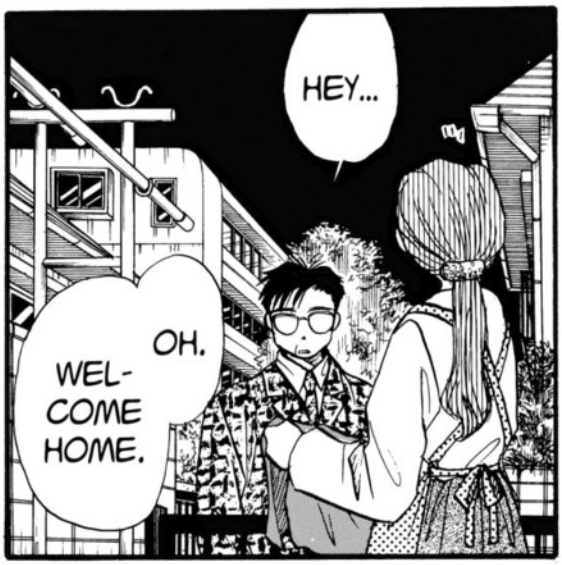
YOU'RE GONNA DO THE LAUNDRY NOW?
WHAT OTHER TIME IS THERE?
THUD

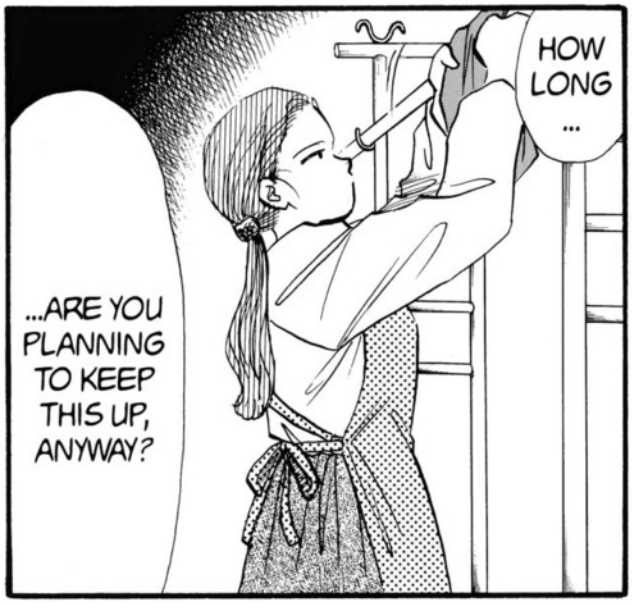
RYOKO ...
PLEASE GET OUT OF THE WAY.
WHUP

SLOSH
SLOSH
SHARP 3.6

DON'T. IT'S EMBAR-RASSING.

YOU'RE HANGING THOSE OUT NOW?


HEY...
OH. WEL-COME HOME.

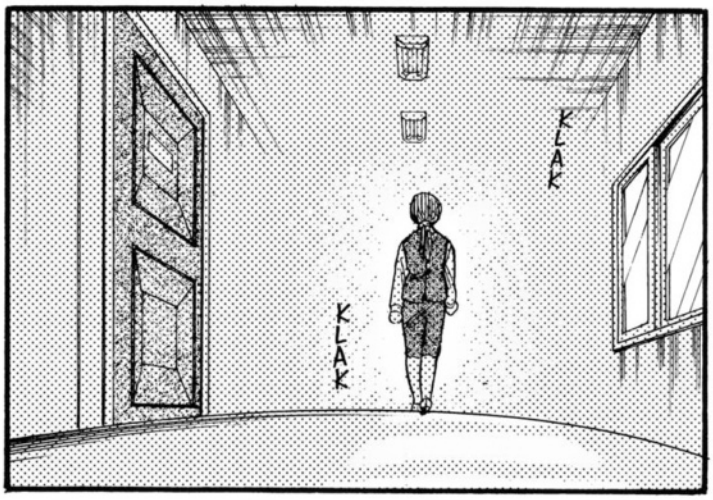

HOW LONG ...
...ARE YOU PLANNING TO KEEP THIS UP, ANYWAY?

IF YOU HANG THAT STUFF OUT AT NIGHT...
...PEOPLE WILL THINK YOU'RE CRAZY.

I-I GUESS I COULD DO THAT.

LOOK, WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A PAID LEAVE AND THINK IT OVER?
BUT YOU CAN'T JUST QUIT. YOU HAVE TO GIVE TWO WEEKS' NOTICE.

OH!
I'LL HAVE MY DESK CLEARED BY TOMOR-ROW.
WAIT A MINUTE! DON'T BE HASTY!!
I CAN'T WAIT.


KLAK
KLAK

KLIK
CONFERENCE ROOM
PARDON ME.

WORD THAT MS. ANZAI HAD QUIT SOON SPREAD THROUGH THE OFFICE.
EVERYONE KNEW ABOUT IT...
A GIRL IN ADMINISTRA-TION TOLD ME THE DRAGON LADY TURNED IN HER LETTER OF RESIGNA-TION.
NO WAY!
LISTEN ...
YACK!

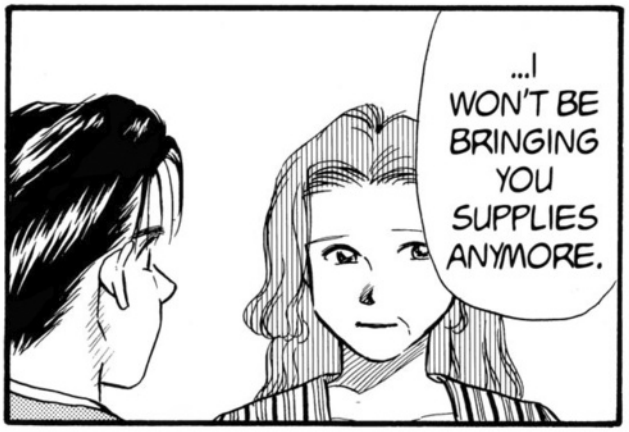
I WANTED TO ASK YOU FOR SOME REPORT PADS AND PAPER CLIPS, BUT...
...SHALL I ASK ONE OF THE GIRLS?

...

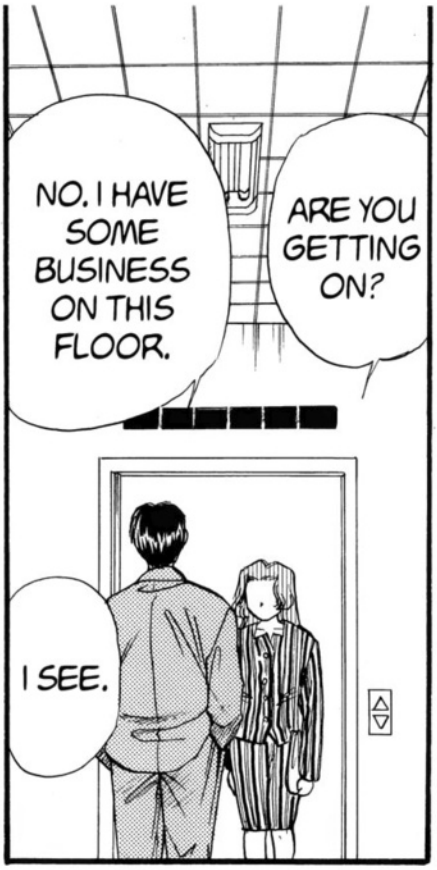
HUH?
GOING HOME ALREADY? IT'S NOT EVEN NOON.
YES.

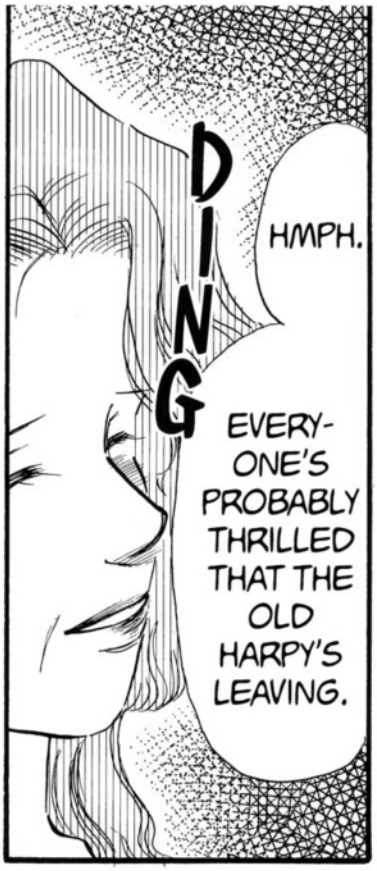
MS. ANZAI...
...EXCEPT ME.

WHAT?
I'M QUITTING THIS JOB...
...SO...

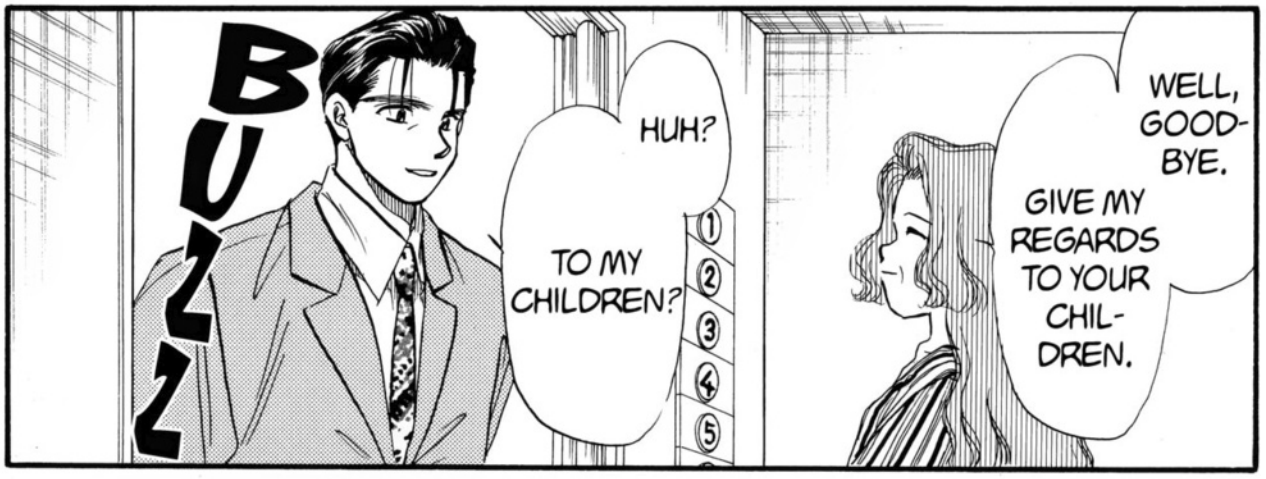

...I WON'T BE BRINGING YOU SUPPLIES ANYMORE.

I'VE SUBMITTED MY RESIGNATION.


ARE YOU GETTING ON?
NO. I HAVE SOME BUSINESS ON THIS FLOOR.
I SEE.


DING
HMPH.
EVERY-ONE'S PROBABLY THRILLED THAT THE OLD HARPY'S LEAVING.

REALLY? THAT'S A SHAME.
IT WON'T BE THE SAME AROUND HERE WITHOUT YOU.

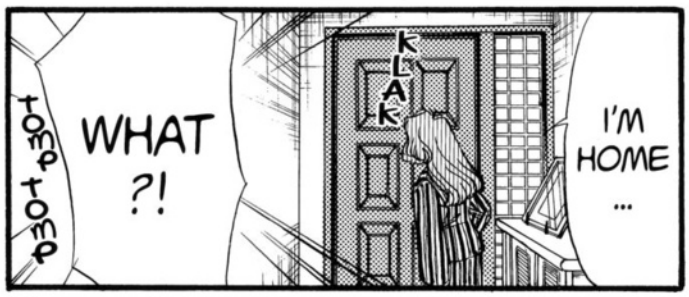

BUZZZ
HUH?
TO MY CHILDREN?
WELL, GOOD-BYE.
GIVE MY REGARDS TO YOUR CHIL-DREN.

KLUNK
WOOSH

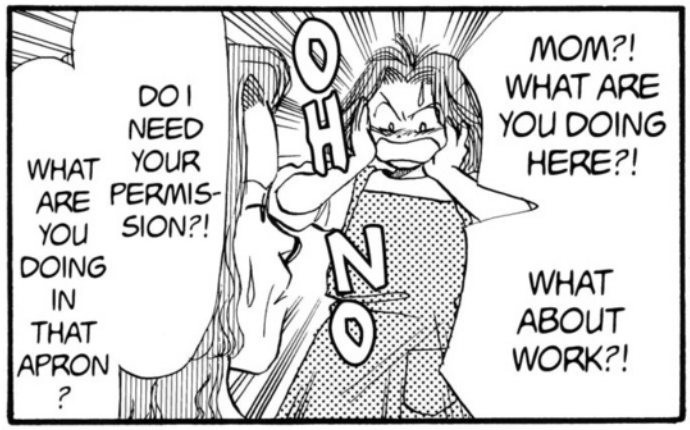
I WANT YOU TO KNOW...
MS. ANZAI!
WHAT ?!
YOU...
...WERE INDISPENS-ABLE TO THIS COMPANY.
YOU WERE NEEDED.
WHO ...
... NEEDED ME?
NEEDED?

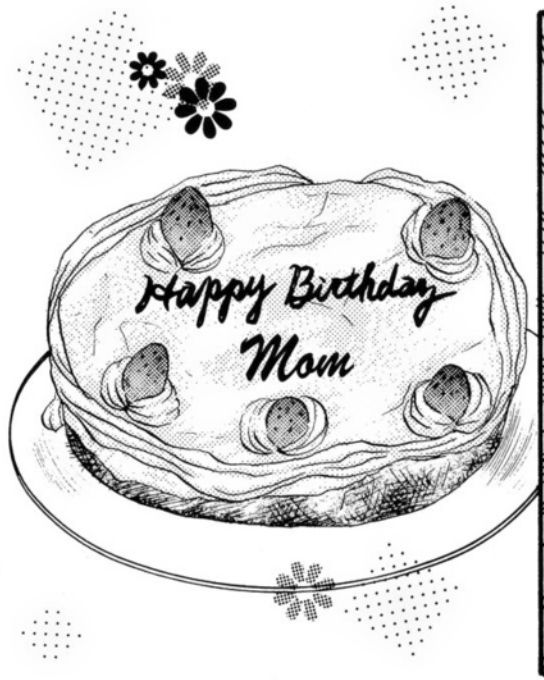
I'VE...
3 4 5 6
TH-THANK YOU...VERY MUCH.
WHO?
...
HE RELEASED ME...
I'VE ALWAYS ...
...WANTED TO HEAR THAT FROM SOMEONE.

I'M...
...ALL RIGHT NOW.


TOMP TOMP
WHAT ?!
KLAK
I'M HOME ...

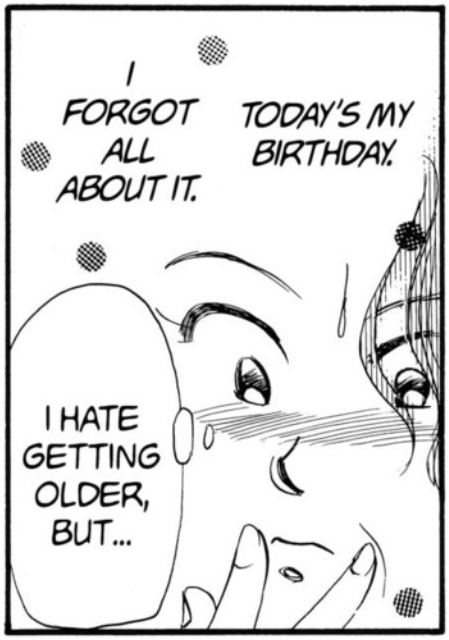
RUSTLE RUSTLE
PHEW ...
KLANK
IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I'VE HAD TIME TO SHOP. I THINK I BOUGHT TOO MUCH.

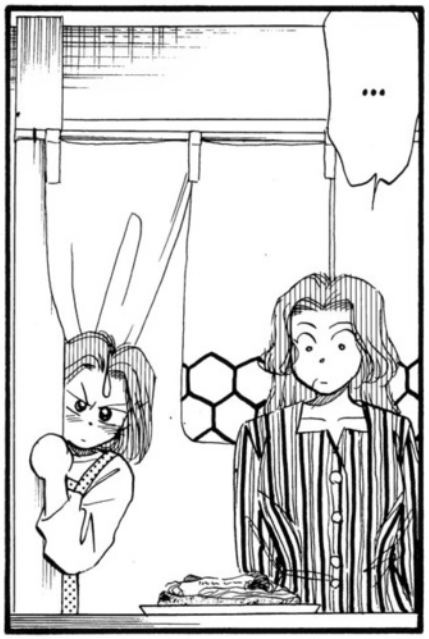

WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THAT APRON ?
DO I NEED YOUR PERMISSION?!
OHNO
MOM?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
WHAT ABOUT WORK?!


Happy Birthday Mom

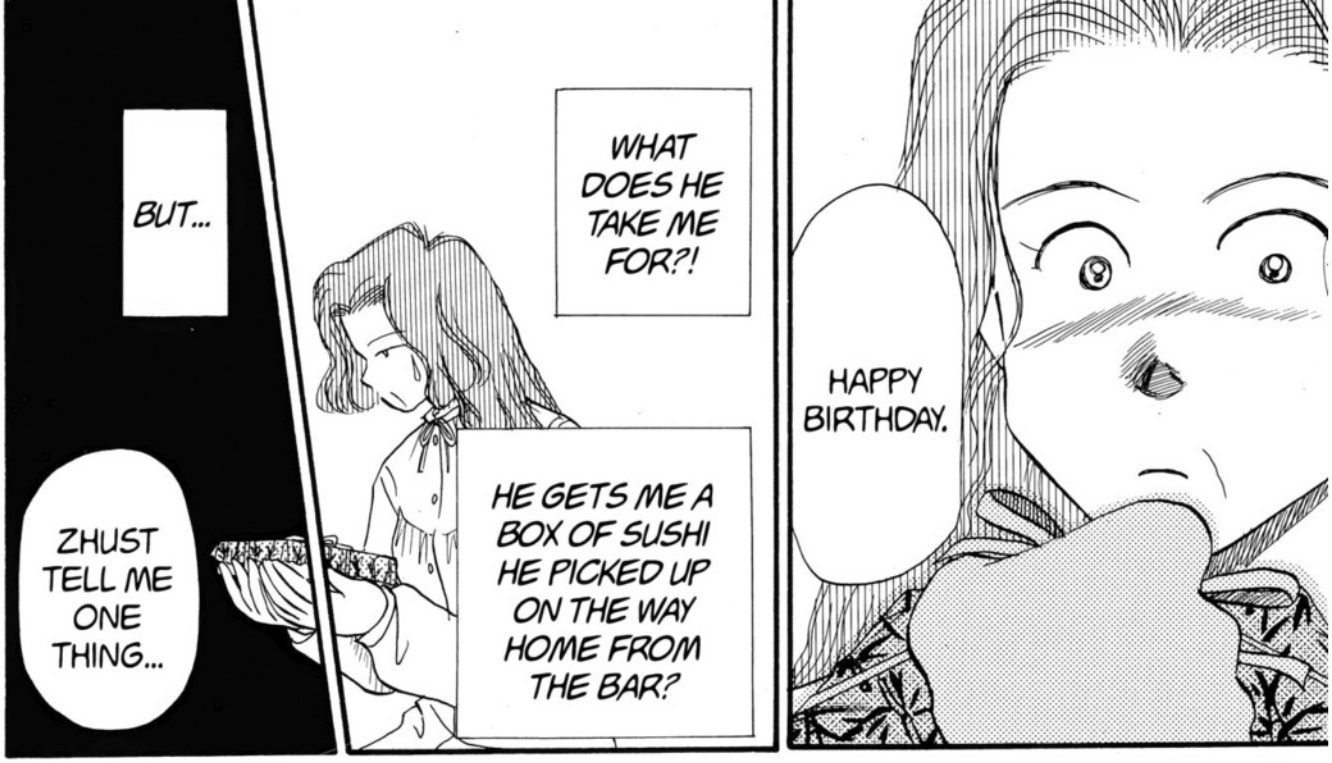
DON'T !!

OH NO!! OKAY, BUT DON'T COME IN HERE!
SOMETHING'S BURNING.
HUH ?
SNIFF





It didn't rise, either.


BUT...
ZHUST TELL ME ONE THING...
WHAT DOES HE TAKE ME FOR?!
HE GETS ME A BOX OF SUSHI HE PICKED UP ON THE WAY HOME FROM THE BAR?
HAPPY BIRTHDAY.

WHY WON'T YOU LET ME HELP YOU?
I DON'T GET IT...

WHAT?
WHEN ...
...ARE YOU GONNA ASHK ME FOR HELP?

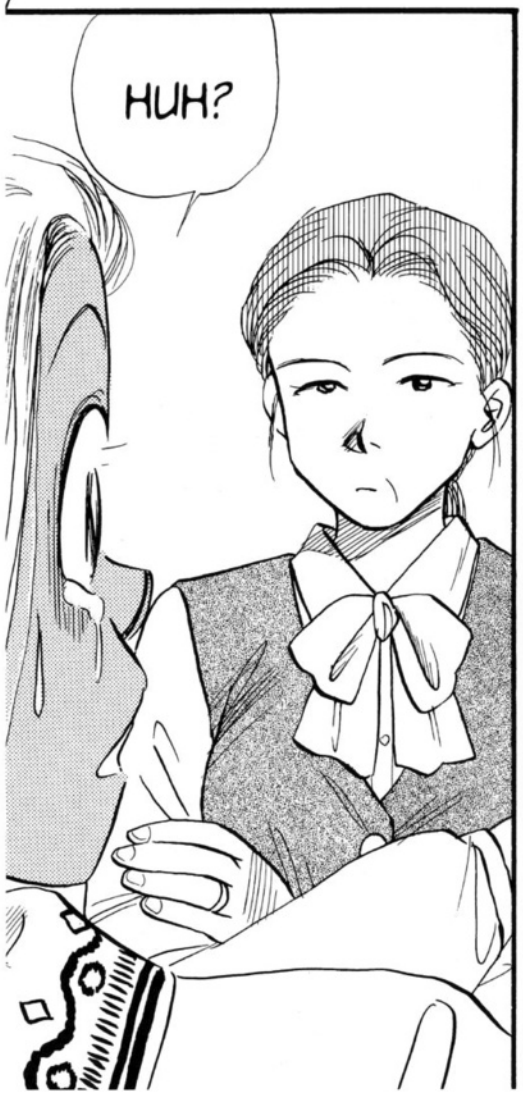
DEAR ...
THE TRUTH IS...
HIC
I COULD DO THE SHOPPING, OR THE LAUNDRY...
HIC
ZHUD

...WE WOMEN ARE FOOLS.

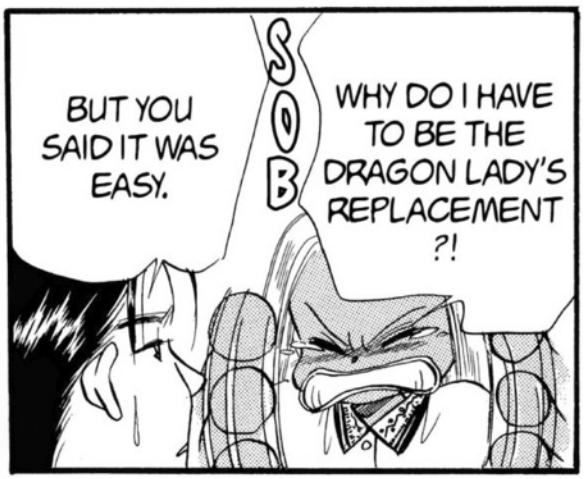
HIC

WAAAH
CHIEF !!
I CAN'T TAKE IT!!
SEV-ERAL DAYS LATER

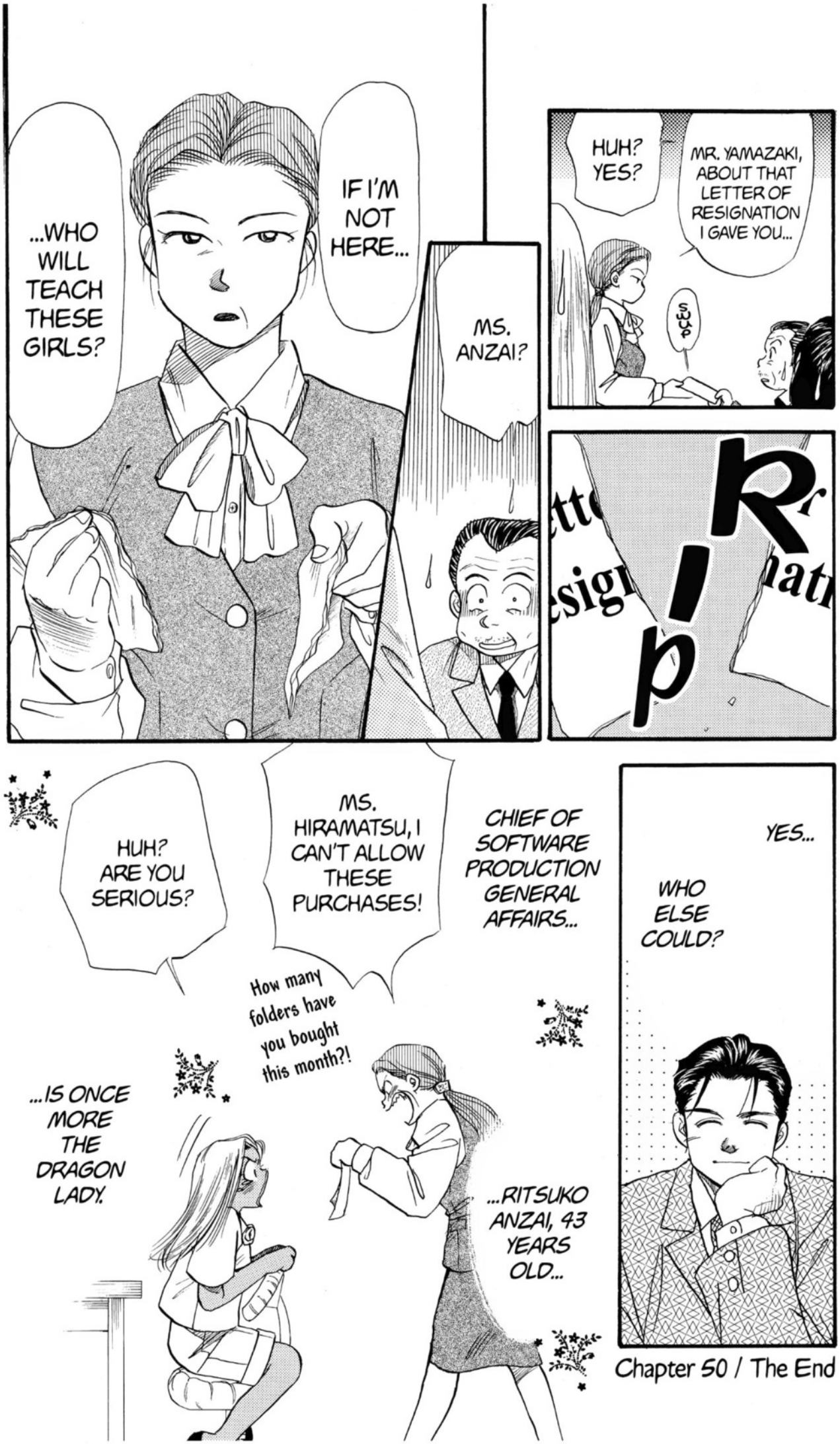
TO THINK THAT A LITTLE THING LIKE THIS...
HMPH... HE'S DRUNK! YOU SHOULD JUST SLAP HIM SOBER.
STOP THAT. HE'S TIRED.
TUMP
...COULD MAKE ME WEEP WITH HAPPINESS.
BUT NOT AS TIRED AS YOU ARE, I BET.


HUH?

WHAT'S WRONG ?


BUT YOU SAID IT WAS EASY.
SOB
WHY DO I HAVE TO BE THE DRAGON LADY'S REPLACEMENT ?!

MS. ANZAI !!
IT'S NOT EASY, IT'S A NIGHT-MARE!



Chapter 50 / The End

Sketches from My Notebooks 4

I did these illustrations in the last year or two. It seems I tend to draw western-looking faces.

In Loving Memory of Yoshizo

I'm sorry to inform everyone that my rabbit Yoshizo passed away on June 14, 1994. The picture of Yoshizo in volume 8 of *Baby and Me* was from the most recent photograph of her.

I'd stopped drawing Yoshizo. It's been a long time.

At the time, I was in no condition to draw any cartoons. Since then, with the support of those around me, I've been able to overcome my sorrow somewhat.

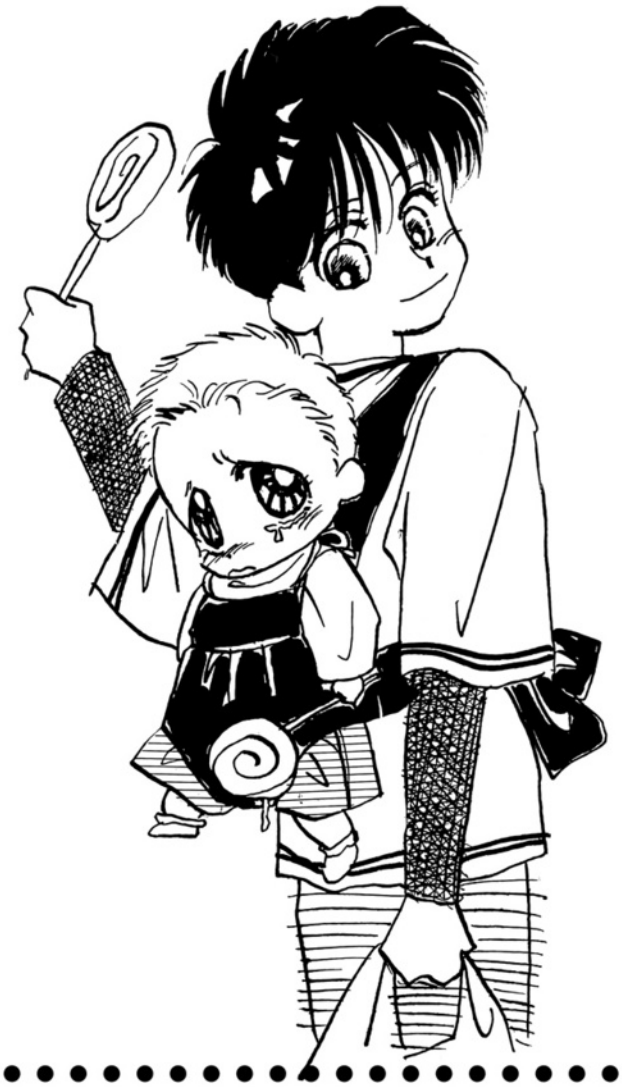
Yoshizo was the one who filled the empty places in my heart when I began my solitary life in Tokyo. She was with me while I worked and suffered in school and as I endured the stresses of life as a cartoonist. Now I must go on living and drawing manga with a hole in my heart. It feels strange. Nothing can replace Yoshizo.

I will end here.

This volume of *Baby and Me* is dedicated to Yoshizo, who watched over me to the end.

October 17, 1994 Marimo

I've ended on a gloomy note. Sorry. I'm better now. Really.



BABY & ME

Creator: Marimo Ragawa

SBM Title: *Baby & Me*

Date of Birth: September 21

Blood Type: B

Major Works: *Time Limit*, *Baby & Me*, *N.Y. N.Y.*, and *Shanimuni-Go* (Desperately—Go)

Marimo Ragawa first started submitting manga to a comic magazine when she was 12 years old. She kept up her submissions for four years, but to no avail. She decided to submit her work to the magazine *Hana to Yume*, where she received Top Prize in the Monthly Manga Contest as well as an honorable mention (Kasaku) in the magazine's Big Challenge contest. Her first manga was titled *Time Limit*. *Baby & Me* was honored with a Shogakukan Manga Award in 1995 and was spun off into an anime.

Ragawa's work showcases some very cute and expressive line work along with an incredible ability to depict complex emotions and relationships. Some of her other works include *N.Y. N.Y.* and the tennis manga *Shanimuni-Go*.

Ragawa has two brothers and two sisters.

BABY & ME, Vol. 9

The Shojo Beat Manga Edition

Story & Art by

MARIMO RAGAWA

English Adaptation/Lance Caselman
Translation/JN Productions
Touch-up Art & Lettering/Vanessa Satone
Design/Yuki Ameda
Editor/Shaenon K. Garrity

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